

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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World missions: what will '90s bring?

By Leland Webb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The unraveling of Soviet-sponsored communism and the rapid expansion of Third-World churches offer Christians new opportunities to evangelize the world in the 1990s, mission strategists have predicted.

But the rise of other opposing ideologies — particularly Islam — and the continuing struggle of Christians to cooperate with each other in world evangelization poses challenges the church has yet to overcome, they added.

As the final decade of the 20th century begins, eight mission strategists related to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board predicted what is ahead in the '90s in the January issue of *The Commission*, the board's magazine.

If Southern Baptists and other evangelistic Christians want to make the most of the new decade, the strategists said, they must:

— Respond quickly to sudden opportunities.

Winston Crawley, retired vice president for planning, warned of "turbulence ahead."

In addition to the collapse of the Soviet empire, "many political changes are in the offing, some already determined and others in process or urgently needed," Crawley said. "Examples are the European Economic Community, Hong Kong, Cambodia, the Middle East and southern Africa"

Economic problems such as Third-World debt, trade imbalances and North-South tensions may get worse before they get better."

Christians must be ready to take advantage of an unexpected shift in attitude by a government, to enter a door that materializes in what once was a brick wall, the planners urged.

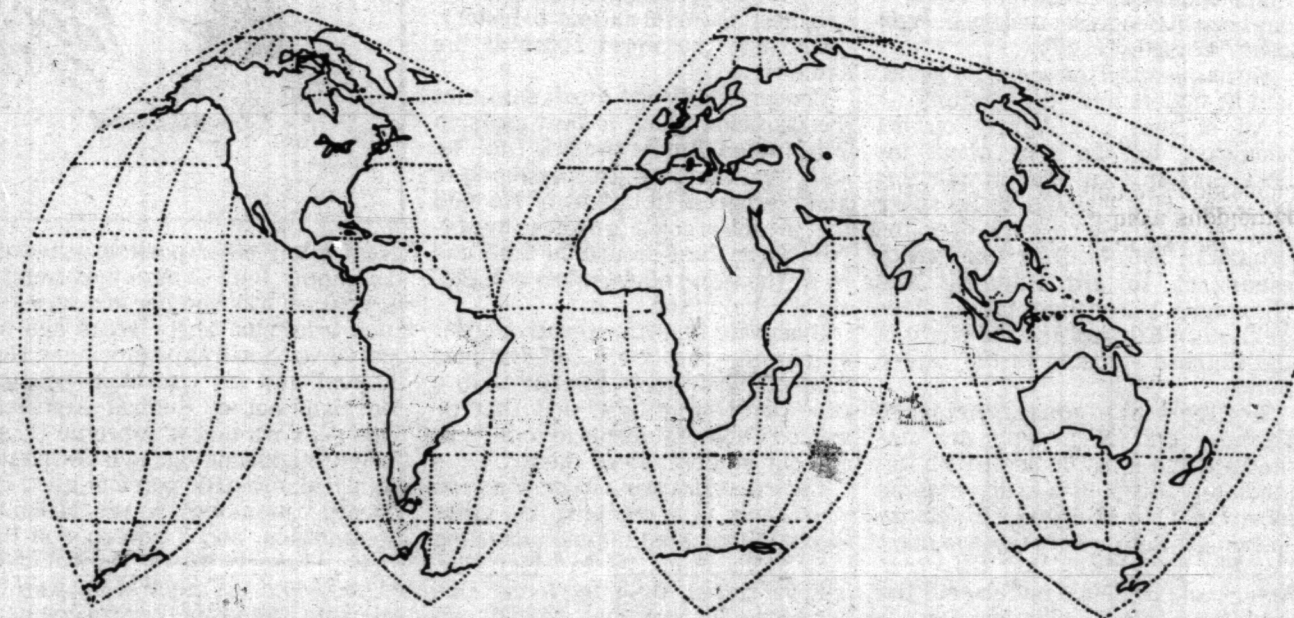
"The '90s may well be the time of the church" in communist countries, suggested Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. "The old system has been shown to have failed. Change is taking place, and in many countries the people have tasted more freedom. The way back would have to be brutally oppressive; the way forward will necessitate adjustments to the ideology."

— Adjust to drastic changes in world economics and organization.

Internationalization of business, economics, information and missions are "having impact beyond our ability to understand," presenting "new challenges and opportunities we have not yet carefully considered," said FMB President R. Keith Parks.

Emerging "city states" within regions will become the focus for economic and social life, demanding mission strategies to reach the cities, observed Bill O'Brien, executive director for public affairs.

During the '90s, "the world will



become more urban than rural for the first time in human history," predicted Clark Scanlon, director of research and planning. By the end of the century, 200 basically non-Christian "mega-cities" with populations topping 1 million people each will dot the globe.

— Adapt to increased competition for spiritual allegiances, including militant outreach by Islam and other religions.

"Islam constitutes the greatest single challenge to the Christian world mission," said Crawley. "We may have tended to think of communism in that regard, but Christian faith is growing rapidly in communist lands, while it struggles in Muslim lands."

About one of every five people on earth is a Muslim. Muslims are in the majority in 40 countries, where they often prohibit evangelism by other faiths, while spreading Islam elsewhere.

"The recent resurgence of Islam based on oil wealth and on Iranian Shiite fundamentalism has brought much greater aggressiveness in the spreading of Islam," Crawley said. "If a (Christian missions) focus on unevangelized areas is pursued seriously, that approach leads inevitably to a special focus on the Muslim challenge, since such a large proportion of the essentially unevangelized countries, cities and people groups lie in the Muslim world."

Ballenger agreed, noting, "Due to the zealous nature of many adherents to Islam, the financial backing of wealthy Arab states, the moral decline of the West and the fractured state of the church," Islam will continue to grow — not only in the Middle East, but in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States.

Islam poses a major challenge to

Christianity but is only one among legions of competitors. British mission researcher David Barrett counts no fewer than 30,000 religions across the world.

"Hinduism and its various 'made in America' offspring have moved out of the fringes of society and into the mainstream" of Western thought, warned Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president. And "New Age thinking is rapidly becoming one more of the sale items in the supermarket of American religious plurality. It's beginning to infiltrate . . . church people who are hardly aware of its origins and ultimate enmity with the Christian gospel."

— Adapt to the shift of Christian leadership away from the West.

Most of an estimated 21 million new believers who join the world Christian church each year live in the Southern Hemisphere. Barrett has charted the shift of the "Christian center of gravity" to Third World nations, as well as a shift eastward to the communist world. He also points to the "emergence of 1,000 Third-World mission agencies," sending out tens of thousands of Asian, African and Latin American missionaries.

"We now have the reality of a transnational missionary force," said O'Brien.

The Foreign Mission Board and other Western mission agencies should facilitate the work of Third-World mission organizations, added Scanlon, emphasizing "partnership and reciprocity, cooperation rather than control."

— Prepare to encounter higher barriers to missionaries.

Barrett said he counts 119 countries that restrict or bar traditional missionary residence, with four more being added each year. This reality

demands "a commitment to new approaches to sharing the news of Christ," said O'Brien.

The '90s will call for a "significantly altered approach to missions as we learn better how to think, plan and strategize on a global basis," said Parks. "Through tentmakers, non-residential missionaries and (other methods), we will have supplementary and complementary approaches to the career missionary that will be of greater significance than we have yet envisioned."

Missions will be harder, not only in the matter of securing resident visas, but also in "living conditions (and) danger," predicted Kammerdiener.

As a further indication of a world hostile to the Christian gospel, Barrett reported martyrdom of Christians in at least 50 countries may reach 300,000 a year.

— Continue a holistic ministry to people's physical and spiritual needs, with greater attention to injustice, oppression, and the environment.

Africa's poor teeter "on the brink of disaster," Scanlon said. "With the world's fastest-growing population and a loss in agricultural productivity, parts of Africa are nearing a hunger holocaust."

Humanity's physical problems "must be recognized as the church's spiritual problem in the '90s," said Ballenger. "Stewardship of the creation will have to occupy more of our attention. The groaning of the whole creation for redemption will become an unavoidable noise as the situation with food and water becomes more critical."

Barrett noted among his "megatrends" the "spread of Christian activism opposing injustice and human rights abuses" and "new ministries to 1.3 billion urban poor in

(this) exploding 'planet of slums.'"

— Cooperate with other Christians committed to the biblical "Great Commission" to evangelize the world.

"The whole interaction with our own (Baptist) partners in mission activities, as well as the 'Great Commission' Christian community, has significance we have not fully understood nor properly harnessed," said Parks. "We're entering a new age of relationship that will cause a significantly different approach to missions. Our challenge is to remain distinctively Southern Baptist, while identifying and cooperating with these other groups."

— Repair erosion of mission support at home and encourage church members to develop a concern for world evangelization and their role in it.

The greatest obstacle to world evangelization is the difficulty of Southern Baptists and other Christians in understanding the Third World and committing to it, said Lewis Myers, vice president for Cooperative Services International. He said he wonders if American Christians are in danger of letting their affluence become a barrier to relating to developing countries.

Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust was one of the earlier global evangelization plans to target A.D. 2000, noted Crawley. "Most Southern Baptists are not aware of the very large number of similar plans developed by other Christian bodies and missions agencies. In the evangelical community, intensity of missions outreach is still building toward A.D. 2000"

During the 1990s, that enthusiasm needs to be stirred up in every church."

Many Christian strategists now believe world evangelization is entirely possible, if Christians can cooperate to make it happen, the Southern Baptist mission leaders said.

"Will other agendas continue to divert the attention and energies of denominational leaders and church members away from our mission challenges?" asked Crawley. "Or can Bold Mission Thrust take center stage in the '90s?"

"Provisional commitment as a lifestyle appears to be growing in the United States and throughout much of the world," noted Kammerdiener. He pointed to the dwindling "pool of potential missionaries" and the fact that "support for Foreign Mission Board giving channels can be eroded quickly."

Are Southern Baptists and other missions-rooted Christians prepared for the '90s? Or will they allow events to overwhelm them and float aimlessly in the shallows? Check back in 10 years for some answers.

Webb writes for FMB.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

This was close enough

To a 17-year-old high school graduate in Mertz, Texas, a conference with the President of the United States was about the most remote idea that could have been imagined. In fact, to a senior adult in Jackson, Miss., in February of 1990, it was about the same thing.

It became a fact last week, however; and it was a very interesting and rewarding experience.

The meeting with the President was a part of a Washington briefing hosted and conducted by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Though I had a profound appreciation for that organization beforehand, it was heightened during this briefing. And though I voted for the President and have appreciated his work, I came away from the conference with him with a deepened impression of him and a heightened appreciation for him.

And that is not to be taken as a political statement. It was not a political meeting.

The visitors numbered about 22, and the five or six White House staff people who were in the meeting made the total group number close to 30.

The session with the President lasted about 30 minutes. The entire White House briefing session lasted about two hours.

Fifteen of the visitors were seated around a long table in the conference room with the Mississippi editor seated almost across from the President. That was an unusual experience.

Because of having been there, it would not seem amiss to provide a few impressions that were gained of this most powerful person on earth. And though he is earth's most powerful, he carries his power lightly. He is a very

casual but highly intelligent person. While he has not come across as being highly articulate as seen on television, in person he is very much so. He is intense as he discusses the plans he has for carrying out his goals and dreams for his country.

It was thought that very likely here was the most knowledgeable, the most able, the most dedicated, and the best prepared President that we have had in sometime, perhaps ever. One begins to feel that in this time when world governments are changing daily, it was no accident that he has been head of the CIA and thus understands world affairs; he was ambassador to China and understands that country; has been in Congress; and spent eight years as vice president.

He has been on the scene for years, and he understands the territory.

All of that sits lightly on his shoulders, but he goes about his business with a will to accomplish his purposes. His business as he spoke with us included concern over the drug war, the need for emergency measures to aid Panama and Nicaragua, the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, and the plight of the Chinese students in the United States.

He feels the emergencies in Panama and Nicaragua are immediate and must be dealt with immediately. His plan is to divert some money that has been going to defense spending to help restore those nations. He said he realizes that there are American problems, but he sees the Central American conditions as more pressing. The money would be available, he said, because of the new waves of freedom sweeping Eastern Europe. East Germany had free elec-

tions for the first time in its history this week. The President credited Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, with staying with peaceful changes in Eastern Europe.

And he salutes his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, for insisting that the Berlin wall must come down.

He said that this is the most exciting time in history to be President of the United States.

And in the words of Mordecai to Esther, "... who knoweth whether thou (the President) art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Certainly, one can only feel that it was no accident that George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, presidents of the two most powerful nations in history, came onto the world scene at the same time.

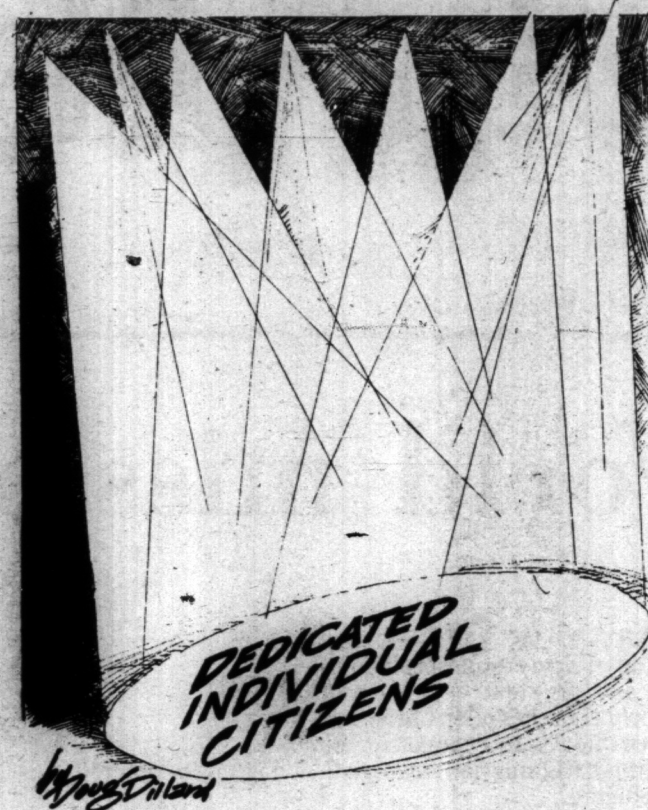
Concerning drugs, Bush said that the war isn't going to be won from Washington. But for the first time, he said, "we think we are beginning to make progress in this war." He said that the job is going to be done by people such as those around the table and by a "thousand other points of light" across the nation.

Bush said that his executive order extending the visas of Chinese students was more powerful than a law would have been and that he wanted Chinese students to come here and our students to go there.

The President was perceived as one who wants to accomplish his goals through dedicated individuals using their skills in causes in which they believe rather than by force. One begins to believe that he will accomplish most of his goals.

Sitting across the table from the President of the United States is an exciting experience. There were a

A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT



great many other positive points to the Baptist Joint Committee briefing, however. It was another in a series of such briefings. Three years ago we met Oliver North as he proclaimed his interest and his efforts in keeping Marxism out of Central America. This year we met a Supreme Court justice, high-ranking Soviet officials, highly placed IRS personalities, influential members of the Helsinki Commission, and a governor of the Federal Reserve Board. The last named body controls much of the world's economy. Details of these encounters as well as other aspects of the White House briefing will be discussed next week.

Through it all the consensus of the

editors was almost one of awe at the knowledge of matters pertaining to church and state and the tremendous influence of decisions makers and the dependence of those decision makers on the personnel of the Baptist Joint Committee.

In the early sixties, when I was associate editor of the Baptist Standard, the editor, E. S. James, who was my mentor and role model, spent about 40 minutes with President John Kennedy. It never occurred to me that one day I would have a similar privilege. Of course, Dr. James was invited to the White House by Kennedy, and only the two of them were in that conference.

But this was close enough.

Guest opinion . . .

Meet Hank And Linda Lee

Mississippi Baptist Missionaries in Japan

By Gene Hines

"You just do what I say, and the impossible will get done." That is a lesson Hank and Linda Lee learned about God one day in Tunica, Miss. "We told God that we were willing to go to Southwestern Seminary," Hank says, "but we couldn't sell our house in Tunica. We packed up anywhere and told everybody that God had said the house would be sold if we were willing to go to seminary."

Everybody thought we were a little crazy, I guess. But the house was sold — one hour before we left for Ft. Worth. That's when we learned that if you do what God tells you, the impossible gets done."

That is the kind of faith that eventually brought Hank and Linda Lee and their three daughters April, Terry, and Amy, through seminary and a pastorate in southern Louisiana to the foreign mission field and Tokyo, Japan. And Mississippi Baptists

played a vital part in that pilgrimage. Here's how.

In 1970 newlyweds Hank and Linda arrived from Delta State University, Hank's degree still wet with ink, to settle down to married life in Hazelhurst. And there they joined the Hazelhurst First Church.

For Linda it was like coming home because, though she was born in New Orleans, she had lived in Hazelhurst through her high school years. Hank grew up in Tunica County's Dundee Church, but it was not long before Hazelhurst Church was playing a central role in both their lives. It was through the ministry of Hazelhurst Church that Hank and Linda were introduced to a world in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Hazelhurst Church puts a big emphasis on mission programs in the church." And Hazelhurst Church planted seeds that influenced me to be

open to missions," Linda says.

Hank and Linda both worked in the mission organizations of the church, especially Baptist Young Women, GAs, and RAs. And they both remember Pastor George Meadows for encouraging them to be open to a call to missions.

But now the story moves on to Tunica and the Tunica First Church. In 1973 the Lees moved to Tunica so that Hank could join his father in a family business there. And it was in the Tunica Church that Hank and Linda went beyond hearing and reading about a world in need of the gospel to seeing it at first-hand.

"In 1975 Linda and I went on a mission trip, sponsored by the Tunica Church, to the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama." If you ask Hank to tell you about how he became a missionary, that is how he will probably begin his answer. "That trip, and the



The Hank Lee family of Mississippi, missionaries to Japan.

encouragement and support of Pastor Pat Nowell, helped me find my call to missions."

So congratulations, Mississippi Baptists! You have been instrumental in God's call of Hank and Linda Lee to missions in Japan. The Lees arrived in Tokyo in 1986 and are assigned to work with the Chofu Baptist Church in the western suburbs of the city.

And just in case you are not quite

convinced that God is busy seeing that "the impossible gets done" through Mississippi Baptists, listen to Linda Lee tell the story of Akemi Shimazu of Tokyo, Japan, and Rene Sugg and Frances Smira of Jackson, Mississippi.

"A few years ago Akemi's husband, a doctor, was invited to go to Jackson

(Continued on page 5)

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WMU Annual Meeting

March 26-27

JOAN TYLER, PRESIDING

MONDAY AFTERNOON

"Love reaches out to all to bring abundant life"

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------------------|
| 1:45 | Celebrate with pre-session music | Dot Pray and Betty Stewart |
| 2:00 | Sing Songs of the Love of Jesus! | Led by L. Graham Smith |
| | "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" | page 58 |
| | "Share His Love" | page 285 |
| | Prayer | Raymond Lloyd |
| | LOVE REACHES OUT | Marjorie McCullough |
| | Organization | Stuart Calvert |
| | LOVE REACHES OUT... | |
| | through a double-wide trailer | Dottie Williamson |
| | Business | Julia Otis |
| | "Love is the Theme" | page 453 |
| | "In His Name" | Graham Smith |
| | LOVE REACHES OUT... to Taiwan | Nan Sugg |
| 3:15 | SMALL GROUP CONFERENCES | |
| | Nan Sugg | Applegate 317 |
| | Lewis Myers | Chapel Auditorium |
| | Ken and Judy Lyle | Applegate 110 |
| | Doris Diaz | Applegate 310 |
| | Marjorie McCullough | Chapel — Class Room |
| | Dottie Williamson | Applegate 311 |
| | David Michel | Applegate 315 |
| | Gerald and Glenda Davis | Applegate 112 |
| | Jerry and Glenda White | Applegate 214 |
| | James and Guinevere Young | Applegate 213 |
| 5:30 | Banquet for Baptist Young Women and Baptist Nursing Fellowship (by reservation) | |

MONDAY NIGHT

"Seeking ways to make it known to all who need to know"

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------------------|
| 6:45 | Celebrate Through Music | Sanctuary Choir |
| | | First Church, Starkville |
| | | Tanner Riley, director |
| | "Great is the God of Israel" | Farrar/Rhodes |
| | "At the Name of Jesus" | Berry |
| | "Unshakeable Kingdom" | Gaither/Ferrin |
| | "The Great Commission" | Lee |
| | "He Lifted Me" | King |
| 7:00 | Making the Gospel available through music | Led by Graham Smith |
| | "We've a Story to Tell" | page 281 |
| | "In His Name" | |
| | "Rescue the Perishing" | Sanctuary Choir |
| | Prayer | Denise Coleman |
| | SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE IT KNOWN | Marjorie McCullough |
| | "Hope of the World" | page 364 |
| | Offertory Prayer | Eleanor Burt |
| | Offering | |
| | Solo | Graham Smith |
| | SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE IT KNOWN... | |
| | in Maryland and Delaware | Mr. and Mrs. Ken Lyle |
| | through Cooperative Services International | Lewis Myers |
| | Prayer | Jean Bond |
| | FELLOWSHIP — Meet our program personalities | Fellowship Hall |

TUESDAY MORNING

"We share the love of God each day we live"

- | | | |
|------|--|------------------------------|
| 9:15 | Celebrate His Love Through Music | Graham Smith |
| 9:30 | Together, Sharing God's Love Through Music | Led by Graham Smith |
| | "Tell the Good News" | page 288 |
| | "Make Me a Channel of Blessing" | page 262 |
| | Prayer | J. C. Mitchell |
| | SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD EACH DAY | Marjorie McCullough |
| | SHARE HIS LOVE BY PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES | |
| | Election of officers and Executive Board | Rita Land |
| | Business | |
| | "O, Zion Haste" | page 295 |
| | SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD... | |
| | along the Eastern Seaboard | Mr. and Mrs. Ken Lyle |
| | "In His Name" | |
| | Offertory Prayer | Pam Keith |
| | SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD... | |
| | through the Cooperative Program | David Michel |
| | SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD... | |
| | through missionary parents | Sandra Nash and Gretta Lloyd |
| | SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD... | |
| | all over the world | Lewis Myers |
| | Prayer | Don Dobson |

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

"Reveal Christ's presence in our lives"

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1:15 | Celebrate His Presence through Music | Dot Pray and Betty Stewart |
| 1:30 | Reveal His Presence in our lives | |
| | through music | Led by Graham Smith |
| | "Praise Him! Praise Him!" | page 67 |
| | "There is a Name I Love to Hear" | page 66 |
| | Prayer | Terry Williams |

(Continued on page 5)



Church-related vocations: number of students drops

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Board of Ministerial Education reported to the Education Commission that the number of Baptist college students studying for church related vocations continues to fall.

Jack Winscott, president of the Board, reported that spring enrollment at the Baptist colleges for students planning on entering a church related vocation totaled 227. This is down from the 1989 spring and fall average of 240.

The 1990 total is approximately five percent of the total undergraduate enrollment at the Baptist colleges.

According to Winscott's statistics, the 1988 average was 264. For 1987 it was 321. And for 1986, the total was 340.

"Apparently," wrote Winscott in the report, "more and more of our CRV students are attending community colleges, state universities, and out-of-state schools."

These statistics include those planning on entering pastoral ministry, career missions, religious education, music ministry, youth or activities ministry, church related counseling, or "undecided." Each in the CRV category has made a public commitment in his or her home church to such ministry.

Out of that number, a total of 146 are receiving ministerial aid from the Board. Eligibility for aid is based primarily on need.

Blue Mountain College reports 42 CRV students, of which 26 are receiving aid; Clarke College reports 47 CRVs, of which 40 are receiving aid; Mississippi College reports 99 CRVs, with 50 receiving aid; and William Carey College reports 39 CRVs, with 30 receiving aid. The CRV totals are gathered by the Board of Ministerial Education from the colleges.

Blue Mountain College reported a head count of 363 students with an FTE (full time equivalent which is figured by multiplying total hours registered and dividing by 12, which is the number of hours considered full time) of 341.

Mississippi College reported 2,406 for its undergraduate head count, with 2,080 for FTE. Its graduate head count (Continued on page 5)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 22, 1990

Published Since 1877

Brazil, Korea will send missionaries to U.S.

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has agreed to cooperate with the Korean and Brazilian Baptist conventions to approve missionaries in the United States.

Under the agreement, approved in principle by the agency's trustees during their spring meeting in Atlanta March 12-14, Brazilians and Koreans appointed as foreign missionaries to the United States would become joint missionaries of the SBC Home Mission Board.

Also at that meeting, the board went into executive session for 20 minutes to consider a report from its long range site development committee. In calling for the executive session, Chairman Ralph Smith said the private meeting would be limited to that one subject and that the details of the action would be made public within 45 days.

Smith said he did not like calling the trustees into executive session but that it was necessary to honor real estate negotiations currently under way. "We will give a full release as quickly as we are able," he said.

In other action, HMB trustees elected one new staff member, approved the annual audit, altered the procedures for sending information on prospective employees to board members in advance, approved a resolution to the SBC Executive Committee on cooperative funding, re-elected the full slate of officers, and approved an \$810,792 adjustment to the 1990 budget.

The agreements with the Foreign Mission Board of the Korean Baptist Convention and World Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention were initiated at the request of those national conventions, HMB President

Larry Lewis said.

He called the agreement an "unprecedented approach to missions partnership."

Baptist leaders from Korea and Brazil spoke to HMB trustees about their desire to reach their own people who have come to America without the gospel.

Ki Man Park, pastor of Yoido Baptist Church in Seoul and chairman of the Korean Foreign Mission Board, told the group he was the product of

Southern Baptist missionaries sent to Korea. In return, "we're going to send our missionaries to North America to reach my own blood and kinsmen for the Lord," he said.

"We are here to offer our concern and interest in winning Korean Americans to the Lord by cooperating with your mission endeavors," added Gen. Seh Jik Park, a member of the Yoido church and chairman of the 1988 Olympic Organizing Committee in (Continued on page 5)

Evangelism Department employs James Fancher

James P. Fancher has been employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to serve as a half



fancher

time consultant in the Evangelism Department. He will begin work in May.

Fancher, who will be 62 in July, is retiring as pastor of Monticello Church, Monticello.

Since he will only be working half time for the board,

Fancher will fill out his schedule in vocational evangelism, preaching in revivals and in pulpit supply. He spent 10 years in vocational evangelism.

Fancher will assist Guy Henderson, department director, in all areas of evangelism, including mass evangelism, personal witness training, and youth evangelism. He has

been a field consultant in revival preparation for the department for the past six years.

Fancher is a graduate of Mississippi College and Golden Gate Seminary. Prior to January 1986 when he became pastor of the Monticello church, Fancher was pastor of First Church, Coffeeville; First Church, Aberdeen; First Church, Florence; Harperville Church, Harperville; New Hope Church, Marion Association; Evergreen Church, Winston Association; Mt. Carmel Church, Leake Association; and Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs.

He is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and earlier served as a member of the Education Commission and was chairman of the board at Clarke College.

Fancher and his wife Wilda have three grown sons. Mrs. Fancher is former president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

Southern Baptist Church Music Conference

First Church, New Orleans
June 10-11, 1990

Sunday Afternoon

- 1:45 Opening hymn
Call to order
Greetings
- 2:05 Concert - Louisiana Baptist All-State Youth Choir, Carroll Lowe/Tom Lott, directors
- 2:40 Concert - Church Orchestra, DeRidder, La., Joe Joslin, director
- 3:15 Exhibit break
- 3:45 Preview of "The Baptist Hymnal" - Wesley Forbis, Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 4:15 Concert - Kurt Kaiser, Waco, Texas
- 4:45 Dismiss

Sunday Evening

- 6:45 Concert - Church Choir, Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham, Ala., Bob Hatfield, director
- 7:00 Worship, with the congregation of First Church, New Orleans; Church choir, Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Preacher - Brian Harbour, pastor, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark.
- 8:15 Concert - Tony Weston and Bill Davis
- 8:45 Reception, hosted by the Church Music Department, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Carroll Lowe, director

Monday Morning

- 9:00 Concert - Celebration Ringers, Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., Jim Whitmire, director
- 9:30 Concert - Senior Adult Choir, First Church, Clinton, Miss., Bill Bacon, director
- 10:00 Business session
- 10:45 Exhibit break
- 11:20 Concert - Young Musicians, West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo, Miss., Terry Hurt, director
- 11:50 Lunch at First Church Exhibits open

Monday Afternoon

- 1:00 Division meetings Election Interest session
- 2:10 Concert - Randy Edwards, vibraharp and marimba; Letha Crouch, accompanist; First Church, Shreveport, La.
- 2:30 Concert - Seminars, New Orleans Seminary, Benjamin Harlan, director
- 3:15 Dismiss
Exhibits open

Monday Evening

- 6:45 Concert - Sanctuary Choir, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., Lynn Madden, director
- 7:00 Worship
Preacher, Brian Harbour; Music director, Mark Edwards, SBCMC president and minister of music, First Church, Nashville
- 8:05 Concert - Dick Baker, Prestonwood Church, Dallas, with the Immanuel Church Choir of Little Rock, Ark.; Benjamin Harlan, organist
- 8:35 Concert - Chapel Choir, First Church, Pensacola, Fla., Bob Morrison, director
- 9:10 Congregational singing of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" (Lutkin)
Dismiss

Christian medical group in Romania now meets openly

CLUJ-NAPOCA, Romania (BP) — The Romanian Christian Medical Association, started five years ago as an underground group, received an official organization permit from the national court system in late February.

Begun with 25 members, the association now numbers 160, said Ionel-Alexandru Dan, a Baptist layman and dentist who helped organize the group and is president. The group held its first public meeting Jan. 3 after the anti-communist revolution swept the country in December.

"For the first time, we could pray

together the Lord's Prayer without fear," said Dan, whose brother, Titus, is a Southern Baptist missionary in Australia.

Members include adherents of 10 of the 14 principal religious groups in Romania, including Catholics, Orthodox, Baptists, and other evangelicals. Nineteen medical and dental specialties are represented among members.

"The purpose of the association is to emphasize spiritual unity through medicine," Dan said. The association will be a mediator between churches in the United States and Romania for meeting medical needs in Romania.

Guest opinion . . .

Education conference committee chosen

By Paul Jones

The conference committee to work out a legislative final form of education reform has been chosen. Facing a March 26 deadline, the conference committee of six will work quickly to attempt a solution to the impasse on funding. The actual programs of the bills passed by both the House and Senate are close to the general goals espoused by Governor Mabus. Both chambers embraced measures to prevent dropouts and improve schools.

Neither chamber agreed with the governor's desire to fund over one third of the reform program with a state-operated lottery. The proposal from the House relies on the legalization and taxation of video poker machines and bingo to fund the program. The Senate has proposed a one

percent increase in the state sales tax. House leadership has indicated that the Senate plan is not acceptable to most House members, and Senate leaders point out that senators rejected a bill to legalize and tax video poker machines earlier in the session.

The issue of funding is a central issue to the passage of educational reform. Now six legislative leaders will attempt to arrive at a common solution. Since the time is short, citizens who desire to communicate with the members of the conference committee must do so quickly. The committee is composed of Representatives Jim Simpson (Harrison Co.), Tom Walman (Pike), and Ed Buelow (Warren) and Senators Irb Benjamin (Alcorn, Tishomingo), Bob Mont-

gomery (Holmes, Madison, Yazoo), and Jack Gordon (Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clay, and Lee). These legislators will work quickly to reach a resolution to the question of funding.

Citizens who wish to communicate with the members of the conference committee or to inform their own legislators of their thinking on the question of funding need to call or write quickly. Legislators can be reached at (601) 359-3770 or written at Box 1018, Jackson 39205.

Paul Jones is executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read. — Mark Twain

Executive Committee approves funding for a number of areas

By Tim Nicholas

Nov. 12, just before the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Other expenditures approved by the Executive Committee included \$2,395 for a Sharp SF-7750 copier for the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department; up to \$2,000 to slow the flow of water, which is reaching 200 to 400 gallons per minute, from a well at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly; \$11,926 for additional repairs to the swimming pool at Gulfshore; \$3,857 to Blue Cross-Blue Shield to purchase a used paper folding machine for the print shop; \$11,234.18 for a model 305 Challenge hydraulic paper cutter for the print shop; \$3,040 for an AB Dick Company Dahlgren Dampening System to improve print quality for the print shop; \$12,000 for two personal computers, software packages, and a printer for the new Office of Communication; \$1,691 for desks and tables for the desktop publishing

work; \$3,915 for a Compugraphic scanner; \$4,600 for a back-up and storage system for desktop publishing; plus \$2,498 for software, stands, and taxes on the desktop equipment.

The Executive Committee in January approved expenditure of up to \$90,000 to rehabilitate the newly purchased Yazoo Street Annex. Thursday, the group approved up to an additional \$35,000 to complete the work on that building and make changes in the Baptist Building. Some of those changes include installation of a prayer room on the ground floor and placing lettering on the east side of the building to let people know it is the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board office.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Aug. 27 at 10 a.m.

Extension center gives schedule

NEW ORLEANS — The schedule of classes has been announced for Term IV of the 1989-90 academic year at the Clinton and Newton, Miss., extension centers of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

All extension center courses accredited for the master of divinity and master of arts in Christian education degree programs are held at Mississippi College. Courses for the associate of divinity degree program are held at Clarke College.

Registration for master's level courses will be at 1 p.m., March 26, at Mississippi College. Classes will meet on Mondays, March 26-May 14.

Master's level courses offered during Term IV will be "Contemporary Approaches to Christian Education" (1-5 p.m.), and "The Christian Doctrine of Salvation and the Christian Life" (6-10 p.m.).

Registration for the associate's level courses, "Introduction to Old Testament" (6:30-10 p.m. Mondays), and "Interpreting John" (6:30-10 p.m. Tuesdays), will be at 6 p.m. Monday, March 26.

VBS in Black churches workshop to be held

A workshop for church leaders who conduct Vacation Bible School in Black churches will be held at Northside Church in Clinton, April 21, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Mrs. Jessie Dawson will serve as the event coordinator. Age group conferences will be offered. An adult VBS conference will be a new feature this year. For more information, contact Richard Brogan, consultant in Black church extension, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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The Association of Baptists for Scouting, **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**, will be having a conference at the **Mississippi Baptist Convention Building, April 6-7, 1990.** Register through your church or local Boy Scout Council.



Brazil, Korea to send missionaries

(Continued from page 3)

Seoul.

"Spiritually, there is a great moving of the Holy Spirit among the people of the Republic of Korea and the United States in relation to the Christian missionary thrust," said Park, who also became a Christian through the efforts of Southern Baptist missionaries.

"We are eternally thankful for the Southern Baptists who so willingly and sacrificially committed their lives for the cause of evangelizing Koreans, both in Korea and the United States."

Because of this contribution from Southern Baptists, Korean Baptists now want to reach out to other countries with the gospel, Park said. "America today needs Christ, and this country is rapidly becoming a mission field. The Korea Baptist Convention would like to share our spiritual blessings with you by cooperating in winning America to the Lord."

"My own church has pledged to send one missionary family to North America each year together with the Home Mission Board to help plant at least one Korean-speaking Baptist church in America."

Bill Ichter, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil and associate director of the Brazilian Baptist World Mission Board, also addressed HMB trustees.

"Today there are literally hundreds of thousands of Portuguese-speaking people who have come to your country," Ichter said. "God has given us a sacred mission to reach these people."

"We Brazilian Baptists feel a great responsibility to these people. To us, they represent a challenge as great as the Philistine giant David faced."

He said runaway inflation and political turmoil have made sending foreign missionaries from Brazil more difficult.

The 800,000 people who make up the Brazilian Baptist Convention are comparable in size to the small stone that David used to slay the giant, Ichter said. "We lack only the sling to thrust us into the forehead of this giant."

Lewis told HMB trustees he had been in contact with SBC Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, who he said approved of the concept of the partnership but was concerned about how it would be implemented.

"We're aware of those concerns and will take them into consideration as we finalize these plans," Lewis said. "What we do will not be counter-productive to the work of Southern Baptists as a whole."

In a telephone interview, Parks said he was concerned that U.S. Baptists could inadvertently encourage Korean and Brazilian pastors to serve in the U.S. rather than in other countries with greater mission needs. Parks agreed that America is a great mission field but said there are still many other countries with fewer resources for spreading the gospel.

"Anytime any group wants to take the initiative to share the gospel with others, I wouldn't try to interfere with that," he said. "My concern would be if the HMB or anyone else took an initiating role and sought to enlist or recruit people from other nations or if subsidies were provided that made it cheaper and easier to send missionaries to the U.S. rather than Third World countries."

"If people are going to come here to work, I certainly see value in coordinating that with the HMB. But I

think we would distort the process if we made it easier for other groups to send missionaries here than to other countries."

Final negotiations are still under way between the HMB and the Korean and Brazilian conventions. However, terms of the initial documents call for the missionary candidates to be jointly approved by the two national conventions and the HMB, with financial support being shared.

The missionaries would relate to the HMB's language church extension division. Oscar Romo, director of language church extension, said no candidates are ready for approval yet, but the first missionary could be approved sometime this year.

The resolution on the Cooperative Program, adopted unanimously, was presented by Robert Curtis, pastor of Ballwin Baptist Church in Fenton, Mo. It affirms Bold Mission Thrust and calls upon the SBC Executive Committee to "redesign its current method of agency funding to reflect a commitment to financially affirm Bold Mission Thrust goals," especially as they relate to the two mission boards.

Tim Norton, director of purchasing at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, was elected associate director of marketing development.

Last October, trustees asked to receive reference forms for all missionary candidates, chaplains to be endorsed, and prospective staff members from their states. At the March meeting, that policy was altered to allow trustees to request not to receive the forms if they do not want to be included in the reference process.

Board chairman Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church, Austin, Texas, was elected to a second term, as were the other board officers: Troy Morrison, director of church-minister relations for the Alabama Baptist Convention, first vice chairman; Lawson Schroeder, a lay person from First Church, of Atlanta, second vice chairman; Ann Frazier, a lay person from Roanoke Church, Roanoke Rapids, N.C., secretary; and Llwlyn Walker, lay person from First Church, Lubbock, Texas, assistant secretary.

Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday. — Don Marquis

Church-related vocations students: number drops

(Continued from page 3)

is 1,027 with an FTE of 688. MC makes separate reports for Clarke College which has a head count of 124 with an FTE of 105.5. The upper class program of MC at Clarke reports 33 head count with 27 FTE.

William Carey College reports an undergraduate head count of 1,409 with an FTE of 1,116. For graduate work, Carey has an estimated 191 head count with 139 FTE.

Carey President James Edwards added a breakdown of undergraduate head counts in the various programs of Carey include: 493 at Hattiesburg, 352 at the New Orleans nursing program, 172 at Gulfport, 346 in the military program, and 46 in the evening program.

Edwards said enrollment is up about 10 percent over last year's figures. He said that a development program for Carey is being planned.

Soviet Lausanne leaders to host conference in Moscow

Pasadena, CA: While world attention has been directed to the dramatic political shifts occurring in the Soviet Union, an historic meeting of leaders from the full spectrum of Soviet Christianity was quietly held recently in Moscow.

During the meeting, held in the library of International Languages, it was decided to ask the Lausanne Committee to convene a conference on evangelization for the Soviet Union Oct. 1-6, 1990.

It has been reported by Tom Houston, International Director of the LCWE, that Soviet authorities are giving favorable consideration to the meeting.

The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization is a 75-member committee drawn from all six continents. They have convened together to further the evangelization of the world by building bridges of understanding and cooperation among the evangelical Christian leaders everywhere.

Last July in the Philippines, 68 participants from the USSR gathered for

Lausanne II in Manila. This Congress brought together 3,500 evangelical leaders from 170 countries to explore the challenges of world evangelization in the decade until AD 2000. The Soviet participants returned to their country greatly impressed with the Lausanne principles and the spirit of cooperation. In the following months they signaled interest in having their own conference.

Houston traveled in February and met with 150 representatives from 35 cities and most Christian groups in the Soviet Union.

They have requested assistance from the Lausanne Committee in providing speakers from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as the West, to join with their own people in leading plenary sessions and workshops.

The full Lausanne Committee will meet in Budapest, Hungary, in July and provide for face to face consultation between the 75-member international committee and evangelical church leaders in Eastern Europe and the USSR.

Devotional

Helping one another

By Don Dobson

Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying, "One sows and another reaps," is true (John 4:36, 37).

Once again, Christ uses the word, "another." It is obvious that he was, and is, greatly concerned with our interpersonal relationships. In the above passage, Jesus tells us how important it is to work with each other.

You and I hear a good bit about the concept of sharing ministry. As a local pastor, I welcome the idea. Sharing is one of the greatest things we can do for one another. It could be that if we shared the responsibilities, as well as the "glory," more would be accomplished in our churches and in our lives.

John tells us that Christ desired that the sower and the reaper work together gladly. Certainly, Christ has the same desire for his churches.

Notice Jesus did not say that the sower was more important than the reaper. Nor did he say that the one who harvests is to be more honored than he who plants. He did, however, say that all the work is equally important and we should do it together gladly.

It would be a sad story indeed, if a bountiful crop were not harvested because of jealousy and strife on the part of the pickers. It would be just as sad if the planters never sowed their seed in a fertile field. How much more sad will it be if a great denomination as ours, ceases to sow and reap because of internal problems?

Thus, the saying, "One sows and another reaps," is true. May you and I continue to practice shared ministry, one with another, gladly.

Don Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.



Dobson

Meet Hank and Linda Lee

(Continued from page 3)

and do medical research. So Akemi and her husband lived in Mississippi for several years. And while they were there, two ladies from Jackson First Church ended up giving Akemi English lessons. Those ladies were Rene Sugg, mother of Robert Sugg, missionary in Taiwan, and Frances Smira. They witnessed to Akemi and invited her and her husband to church over and over again.

When they came back to Japan I met Akemi here in Tokyo, and she came to my English class to continue her English lessons. Then her young husband died suddenly from a heart attack. Now for God to send Akemi all the way from Tokyo to Jackson to meet Rene Sugg and Frances Smira and then bring her back all the way to Tokyo to meet me, another Mississippi Baptist, is just awesome. And Akemi is this close," Linda says, as she holds her thumb and forefinger close together, "to making a decision."

She was really impressed by those ladies in Jackson and admits that she is hungry to know their God."

Listen to Linda tell that story, and it is easy to be convinced that God does indeed see something special about Mississippi Baptists. "I really appreciate those ladies' taking the time to plant such seeds in a Japanese woman. I don't think it will be long before she becomes a Christian."

You often hear that missions is a team effort, that it takes both the missionary on the field and the Baptists back home in the churches. And now that you have met Hank and Linda Lee you can see just how true that is. The Lees can tell you from experience that Mississippi Baptists are a vital part of the missions team in Japan.

Gene Hines is a missionary in Tokyo. He wrote the 1989 mission study book on Japan. The editor visited Chafu Church in October at the invitation of the Lees. He also spent a night in the Hines home.

WMU annual meeting

(Continued from page 3)

REVEAL CHRIST'S PRESENCE

IN OUR LIVES

REVEAL CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

among people from other cultures

"Share His Love"

REVEAL CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

through Woman's Missionary Union

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and the world to Jesus

Prayer

Marjorie McCullough

Doris Diaz

page 285

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Louis Lamar wanted to start a new church

By Greg Smith

Louis Lamar wanted to start a new church. His education and experience prepared him to start a new church. Little did he know that his opportunity to do so would put him at the forefront of ethnic work among Mississippi Baptists.

Lamar is the pastor of what will become the first Southern Baptist Church in Northeast Mississippi aimed primarily at reaching the Black community. Sponsored by Calvary Church in Tupelo, the new work is the third such effort in the northern half of the state and the 12th in all of Mississippi. Although the church does not yet exist, the naming of Lamar as pastor marks the culmination of a five-year process to begin the new mission.

Bill Smith, director of missions for Lee Association, said he first expressed his desire to begin the church in 1985. He is happy with the progress made, but also realizes that much work remains to be done.

"It will be a small step forward," Smith said. "It will broaden our mission outreach."

"I see us starting out with Bible studies. My estimation is that it will take five years to fully establish the church."

Lamar is well-prepared for the task of growing a congregation, Smith said. The 46-year-old minister comes to Tupelo from the Concord Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, where he served as evangelism pastor for the past two years. During that time, Lamar attended classes at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. He was graduated in July, 1989, with a master of divinity degree.

Lamar had sent some resumes to the Home Mission Board but was unprepared for his call from Calvary in mid-1989. He had heard some negative things about Mississippi, he said, and was uncertain of his desire to move to the "Deep South." The movie, "Mississippi Burning," did little to encourage him, Lamar added.

"I wanted to know what their motivation was (for calling me)," Lamar said; so at the first interview in September, 1989, "they interviewed me, and I interviewed them."

"I did have some grave reservations," he said, and spent some time discussing the possible move with his wife, Linda, and five-year-old son, Louis Jr. "We continued to pray about it, and the Lord continued to give us a peace."

Lamar said a deciding factor in his decision was a follow-up visit to Tupelo in October, when he got out into the community, attended a high school football game, and heard what the people had to say.

"I wanted to get out among the people and test some responses," Lamar said. "I was very encouraged."

After a series of meetings with Calvary's missions and personnel committees and a trial sermon, the members of Calvary voted unanimously to call Lamar as pastor of their new mission church. The vote paved the way for the first mission sponsored by Calvary in 30 years and the first begun by any Southern Baptist church in Lee County in quite a while. Calvary Pastor John Armistead said such a project had been under consideration for some time.

"Our church had talked for years



Louis Lamar

about starting a mission," Armistead said. "The real need in our community was for starting a Black church. 'We felt the Lord was in it and were committed to do it.'"

That commitment has been a great encouragement to Lamar, who will now begin to make the dream of a new church become a reality. He has already received pledges from numerous Calvary members to help with survey and enlistment work and is enthusiastic about his task. On the

first day of canvassing during the last weekend in January, 28 church members joined Lamar to scour the streets. The new pastor also realizes, however, the amount of work ahead.

"Many churches want to grow before they have the vehicles in place to support the growth," he said. "I see the birthing process taking six to nine months before the church can form as a congregation."

For now the focus will be on beginning adult Bible studies from which

a nucleus of members can be formed. The first Southern Baptist church aimed at the Black Community in Mississippi, formed in Moss Point in 1983, has been dissolved. Statewide, however, there are now almost 1,200 Black Southern Baptist church members. Lamar realizes that, with him as pastor, the new church will attract primarily Afro-Americans. But he stressed that efforts will be made to minister to the needs of the community as a whole.

"Multi-ethnic" churches are nothing new to Lamar. "Those things are happening in Dallas," he said. "And they're happening in other places."

In this case, those places may include Mississippi.

Greg Smith is youth director at Calvary church, Tupelo.

Award goes to helpers of homeless

MONROVIA, Calif. (EP) — Noon Day Ministry, an outreach program of the First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the recipient of the first annual Mustard Seed Award for its innovative work with homeless people. The \$5,000 award, sponsored by Love Inc., a division of World Vision, was established to recognize churches with enterprising outreaches to the poor. Noon Day Ministry began as a small feeding program for the homeless, but has grown to a full-scale program providing meals, permanent housing, Bible study, counseling, showers, laundry facilities, haircuts, clothing and other personal items.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Origin of life

Editor:

A recent article presented a new twist to the theory of evolution. But anyway you "twist" evolution is an attempt to explain the origin of life without him who is life.

Charles Darwin proposed the theory of evolution, but what is not known or not told is that he renounced his theory before he died. Evolution may do to live by, but it won't do to die by.

All the top scientists of the world worked together to build the ultimate computer. The first question for the computer was, "Where did life come from?" The computer printed this answer: "See Genesis."

There are two very important questions: 1. Where did I come from? 2. Where am I going? Read John 13:3 for the answer.

Bobby Lee
Tupelo

Thanks To Kermit Grammer

Editor:

A project of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission has been the maintenance of the Boyd Baptist Historical Shelter since its construction under the leadership of Dr. J. L. Boyd. Dedicated on October 28, 1962, as the Baptist Roadside Park and

Historical Shelter, located on Highway 61 South, Fayette, Mississippi, near the site of Salem, the first Baptist Church in Mississippi, the shelter was renamed the Jesse Laney Boyd Sr. Memorial Baptist Shelter in 1968. The allotted money for the upkeep of the Shelter has been handled through the Adams-Union Baptist Association for many years.

Kermit Grammer of Fayette has had the responsibility of keeping the grounds and maintenance of the Boyd Shelter as a volunteer since 1964. The commission wishes to acknowledge his work and express appreciation for the contribution he has made to this particular spot of Baptist history.

Bro. Grammer has been pastor of a number of churches in the area as a bi-vocational pastor while working for the Union Gas Company for 38 years. He has served as moderator of the Union association on two occasions, the last being in 1987-1988. He is an excellent example of the work being done by many Baptists in forwarding the work of Christ in Mississippi.

The members of the Historical Commission offer our thanks for the work that Kermit Grammer has done and wish him many more years of activity and service for our Lord. He and his wife, Willa Cockrell Grammer, have been married for 49 years.

Jack W. Gunn
Executive Secretary
Historical Commission

Friend in Guideposts

Editor:

Could I share a word of testimony in regard to Guideposts and its founder, Norman Vincent Peale?

My husband passed away exactly two years ago, and I am living alone. My friends, my neighbors, my family, and my church family have been very good to me in helping to fill the void of being left alone. But when night time comes and everyone goes to his/her own home and family, then I am left to close the door and face loneliness and aloneness. The Guideposts magazine and the books available through the Guideposts Book Club, written by great Christian authors, have ministered to me in a way that is hard to equal. They have been a friend to me when there was not a person present. God sent this means of filling a need in my life, and I praise him for this.

My heavenly Father has been my father, my friend, my source of comfort and strength, and my peace in the midst of a storm since my husband died. Next to God, my family, and friends, Guideposts has been a life-saving, consoling comfort to me. It is very evident that the people who offer the most advice, and often times the most criticism, are usually the people who have had very little sadness and heartache and have not walked in his brother's shoes.

I will forever be grateful for Guideposts and its associates for the work they do and the printed literature they produce.

Ann Melton
Ackerman

The nicest gift

Editor:

May I add my "two cents worth" to the controversy concerning Dr. Peale and Guideposts?

Every Christmas my neighbor renews my subscription to Guideposts, and I consider it one of the nicest gifts that I get.

My husband and I read it from cover to cover and then pass it on to someone else. We have sent some to a pastor who takes them to Parchman for the inmates there to read. To say the least, it must be better than the pornographic movies that we hear about.

As to Dr. Peale's beliefs, I quote from his book, *The Positive Power of Jesus Christ* page 9:

"Having had the feeling for a long time that I would eventually like to write such a book (as was suggested by Dr. Wendell Hawley of Tyndale House Publishers) telling of the many persons with whom I had been involved as they experienced the saving power of the Lord."

On page 11:

This book is my simple offering of love to our Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has done so much for me in life and in whom I trust for Life Eternal."

I should like for one of those people who so adamantly opposed Guideposts to cite us chapter and verse that says Dr. Peale believes and teaches what they say that he does.

LaVerne Pickle
Kosciusko

The Guideposts ad

Editor:

I've been keeping up with the Guideposts ad issue and personally see nothing wrong with Mr. Peale's publications.

In a copy of Plus magazine Mr. Peale is interviewed on the topic, "What does it take to be a Christian?" I have concluded that he believes exactly like I do — that the essence of the matter is to put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. If he believes this, and he states that he does, then I'll continue to buy and enjoy his Christian publications.

Annie Jo Evans
Anguilla

Centreville, Tylertown, anniversary

Editor:

The Centreville Church, located just off Highway 27 south of Tylertown, is preparing to celebrate its 105th birthday on Aug. 4 and 5.

A search for former pastors reveals that the church records are incomplete. If anyone knows of names, addresses, dates of service and has pictures of former pastors of those who were ordained at Centreville Church, we would appreciate having that information. It should be sent to Rt. 6, Box 36B, Tylertown, MS 39667 Mrs. Una Faye Simmons Tylertown

Those who deserve love the least need it the most. — Our Daily Bread

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Need a doctor?

"It's free, when you can find it. It may be good. It may not be." That's what Phyllis Kirk, American lawyer who lives in Moscow, said about medical service in the U.S.S.R.

Of 500 sanatoriums around the country, 50 are in Sochi, a sunny, warm resort city on the Black Sea. With marble floors and landscaped gardens, most every one of the sanatoriums looks like a luxury hotel.

Members of trade unions can stay in a sanatorium for as long as 24 days, and pay only a small amount — around 30 percent — of the costs. Almost everyone belongs to a trade union, including pensioners. These unions have waiting lists for those who wish to enter a sanatorium.

I swam in the sea water pool behind Zhemchuzina Hotel; afterward I felt better than I had in years. So I know that Sochi's sea water and sunshine therapy work. Also the city's treatment centers offer physical therapy, diet therapy, hydro-therapy, magnetic therapy, and hot sulphur baths. Some arthritic patients who have tried the mineral baths, physical therapy, and/or aquatherapy say they have found relief from pain, for up to a year.

Hot sulphur springs first drew the ill to this area. The patient must go to the water, rather than the water being taken to the patient, because the water quickly loses its power, once it's out of the spring. If the bather remains in the hot water longer than 10 minutes, the water will burn his skin. When he steps out of the water, he feels tired, and is advised to rest for 10 minutes at the bath house and

another 10 minutes back at the sanatorium.

Sochi centers have treated hypertension, arthritis, sterility, skin diseases, neurological, respiratory and locomotive diseases, but not organic diseases such as those of the liver or stomach. For admittance, a patient must obtain an outside doctor's diagnosis; then sanatorium doctors make their own diagnoses after treatment begins.

Three doctors at one sanatorium showed our group some of their facilities, including those for hydro-traction of the spinal column (this type of treatment was invented in Sochi, one of the doctors said); hydro-massage; and rooms where herbal, medical, and mineral waters are administered and mud applications made. One of the doctors we met was a woman, Emilia Khanina, who is in charge of therapy. The other two were Yuri Astapov, deputy chief doctor, and Sergei Romanov, division chief.

Spacious residential apartments we saw in that place were fabulous, to say the least. Beyond a flower garden, we examined an entertainment center that featured billiards and chess, and an auditorium where a white grand piano stood on center stage.

Sochi, situated along the black sand beaches of the Black Sea and in the shelter of the Caucasus Mountains, dotted with evergreen cypress, magnolia, and palm trees, surrounded with tea plantations and pear orchards, receives five million visitors annually. Not many are Americans. Certainly these three doctors gave our American group of journalists a cordial welcome, and ended our visit with a terrific tea party. We sat in plush green chairs around a U-shaped table, pouring from individual teapots and selecting choicest pastries at our elbows. In the meantime, the doctors continued to answer questions.

In a shop at another sanatorium, a clerk showed us "pain patches" for sale. They were round and red, the size of bottle tops, with sharp metal prongs. "They are to stick in you at the point of pain, like acupuncture," she explained. Perhaps they make you forget the first pain by causing a second one.

"Don't sit on the stone steps," our tour guide warned. "They say it will chill your body and give you a cold, or it might cause infertility." She was repeating a doctor's advice, she said.



Sergei Romanov, doctor



Sanatoriums in Sochi look like resorts.

Thursday, March 22, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

"If you learn all about WMU, you will love it!..."

By Anne W. McWilliams

"If you learn all about WMU, you will love it!" That's what Mrs. Harvey Haggard told Stuart Calvert. At the time, Stuart's husband, Bob, had just finished seminary and become pastor at Shuqualak, Mississippi. "I'll take you to Garaywa," said Mrs. Haggard, "and Miss Ed will tell you all about it." That she did. Miss Ed's manner of speech and what she said fascinated Stuart. Now she remembers, "That day I saw a world vision. Ever since, I have loved Woman's Missionary Union." Miss Edwina Robinson was then state director of WMU.

Today Stuart, wife of the Ashland pastor, is one of two state officers of Mississippi WMU. Joan Tyler is president and she is secretary-historian.

Her first experience with the organization had not been so good. "I was barely 20," she said. "Bob was at Southern Seminary, and I was a student at University of Louisville, when I was asked to be a WMU 'circle chairman.'" Back in their native Alabama, the two had met and married while in school at Samford University. "I didn't know what a 'circle chairman' was supposed to do. We didn't even have a Royal Service magazine. We named our group for Rhoda Craighead, missionary to Italy. Then for eight months we studied only about Italy — about the country, its schools, etc. We knew all about Italy, but little more about missions. This was boring. I thought, 'Never again!'" Soon after that, though, Mrs. Haggard stepped in, and Miss Ed.

For years, she has written for Royal Service magazine. The diminutive, blue-eyed woman credits another state WMU director, Marjean Patterson, for moving her into the writing field. When Bob was associate pastor at Ridgecrest Church, Jackson, she led a Round Table group in WMU. Following their months-long study of juvenile delinquency, someone in the group asked, "What can we do about this in Jackson?" As a result, they took up this cause as a mission action project. Stuart visited the youth court to ask for initials of youths for whom they could pray. The court official with whom she talked asked, "After you pray, will you be doing something?" Consequently, she took a training course on how to work with juveniles. For 20 years, she has ministered to troubled youths, in what has become her "life major" (more about that in an article next week).

One Monday morning, when the youth she was supposed to meet did not appear, Stuart wandered over to the Baptist Building; there Marjean asked, "Is this all pastors' wives have to do on Mondays? Why don't you go home and write an article about your mission action project?"

"No. I'm not a writer."

But two years later, as she walked down the hall of her house, she heard a voice, just as she passed the thermostat: "Go and write that article for Marjean." She propped her mop against the thermostat, wrote the article, and sent it to Marjean, who in turn mailed it to Royal Service. It was printed in a mission action series. From then, Royal Service began to give her many writing assignments.

"My favorite," she said, "was writing the Bible study on the gifts of the Spirit." After that was finished, she missed the in-depth Bible study; as a result, she began writing for adult Sunday School lesson quarterlies.



In her kitchen, Stuart Calvert stands beside the "chocolate bar" which holds her collection of cookbooks, boxes, tins, and other items that relate to chocolate. She likes to cook, especially desserts and appetizers. One of her favorites is the pot de creme which she serves in demitasse cups. Ingredients are egg yolk, whipping cream, and chocolate chips.

Recently she completed an assignment on Luke, for the Bible Book Series.

Her writing place, in a house filled with handsome antiques, is a light and airy room adjoining her bedroom. Though she's a night person who seldom retires before 11 or 12, she said she does her best writing in the mornings. "Creativity takes time. Bob says I mull a lot. Research to me is more fun than the actual writing."

Once, while Bob was pastor at Piedmont, Ala., she kept seeing references to Strabo and Pausanias, geographers of Paul's day. She decided to read some of their actual writings. A search all over the United States for their books seemed fruitless. Ones she did find were in Latin; though she'd studied Latin for five years, she felt it would take her forever to translate them. Then suddenly she discovered 27 volumes by the two authors, only 12 miles from her house, in the library of Jacksonville State University.

Her writing has led to many speaking engagements across the country, many of them WMU-related. In the past few weeks she has led prayer retreats in Wyoming and Wisconsin. Sometimes she leads lifestyle witnessing seminars for the Home Mission Board. "Every day I review my own salvation experience," she said, "to help me remember what Jesus did for me, so I won't take any credit for myself. Thinking of what he has done for me adds a freshness of enthusiasm to my day."

Born in Montgomery, the daughter of an Alabama state comptroller, she was baptized at age 9.

"That summer I rode my bicycle to Vacation Bible School. Every day, as I pedaled up a steep hill on Ann Street, I could hardly make it because I kept thinking of my sins. One day, during the second week of VBS, just as I

reached the hill, I asked Jesus to be my Savior. Then the hill was easy to climb. I don't even remember going up it. It was as if angels' wings just lifted me to the top."

(Continued next week)

SBC registration cards available

Southern Baptist Convention registration cards for the convention which meets in New Orleans June 12-14, 1990, are available from the office of Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

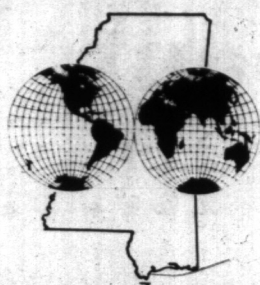
Oral Church will expand facilities

An historic event took place on Feb. 4, at Oral Church, Lamar Association. The people voted unanimously to expand present facilities so the church could better meet worship needs of the community.

"I have only two words to address this move," said the pastor, B. J. Barrett, "Praise God! Will it be easy? No. Will it take a lot of work and sacrifice? Yes. Can we do it? With God's help, Yes!"

The most unhappy of all men is the man who cannot tell what he is going to do, that has got no work cut out for him in the world, and does not go into any. For work is the grand cure of all the maladies and miseries that ever beset mankind — honest work which you intend getting done. — Carlyle.

Evangelism Report



Helping To Bring Mississippi
And The World To Jesus!

	Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams			
Alcorn	1	8	11
Attala	2	2	1
Benton-Tippah			
Bolivar			
Calhoun	11	19	2
Carroll			
Chickasaw			
Choctaw			
Clarke	12	18	8
Clay			
Copiah			
Covington	1	3	1
Franklin	19	3	0
George	5	12	3
Greene			
Grenada			
Gulfcoast			
Hinds-Madison	1	4	1
Holmes			
Humphreys			
Itawamba			
Jackson	3	32	8
Jasper			
Jeff Davis	1	1	1
Jones			
Kemper			
Lafayette			
Lamar			
Lauderdale	15	110	27
Lawrence			
Leake			
Lebanon	2	6	3
Lee			
Leflore			
Lincoln			
Lowndes	1	8	2
Marion			
Marshall			
Mississippi			
Monroe			
Montgomery	1	3	3
Neshoba			
New Choctaw			
Newton			
North Delta			
Northwest	2	90	8
Noxubee			
Oktibbeha	1	1	0
Panola	3	2	2
Pearl River			
Perry			
Pike			
Pontotoc	3	10	4
Prentiss			
Rankin			
Scott			
Sharkey- Issaquena			
Simpson	3	15	7
Smith			
Sunflower			
Tallahatchie			
Tishomingo	3	174	8
Union			
Union Co.			
Walthall			
Warren			
Washington			
Wayne			
Webster			
Winston			
Yalobusha			
Yazoo			

Super summer will take place at MC, July 2-27

Staff changes

Mature young people looking for deeper levels of commitment to Christ will have the opportunity to participate in Super Summer.

Super Summer is a program to train youths in discipleship and evangelism. It will take place at Mississippi College, July 23-27 at a cost of \$120 per person. Theme for the week is "New Light in '90."

Super Summer is open to those who have completed 9th through 12th grades. Each applicant will fill out the registration material and discuss their interest with a church staffer and must have the recommendation

of the church staff person to attend.

"Churches are encouraged to realize this is not a camp," said organizer Robin Nichols, consultant with the sponsoring Discipleship Training Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "This is an advanced level training for young people. Participants will spend time discussing relationships; self esteem; evangelism; Bible study; and in the afternoons, a series of cooperative fun games called Super Summer Olympics."

Registrants will work with Operation Clinton, which is a door-to-door people search with opportunities for witnessing for Christ.

Worship leader for the camp will be Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga.

Music will be led by the singing group, Gabriel, consisting of Jeff Walter, Robin Lyle, and Robert Noland of Arlington, Tex. This will be the fourth year for Gabriel to participate in Super Summer.

Church staff members are encouraged to help as team leaders. Training for these persons will take place July 21-23. Their cost for the conference will be \$130.

Housing this summer can accommodate about 500. Registration opens April 2 and closes June 1. There is a \$35 deposit required with each registration. To register, write Super Summer, Discipleship Training Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.



Gabriel

Award will go to wife of DOM; nominations sought by SBU

Bolivar, Mo. — Nominees are currently being sought for the second Margaret Elizabeth Ross Moore Award presented by Southwest Baptist University.

The award, funded through a trust established by E. Harmon Moore in honor of his wife, will be presented next fall to the wife of an associational director of missions involved in Southern Baptist work.

To qualify for the award, the recipient must be the wife of a currently active Southern Baptist associational director of missions in Southern Baptist work and she must also be a homemaker who uses her home as a Christian witness. In addition, the recipient must be a Christian in the fullest sense, an active member of a Southern Baptist church involved in the association where her husband serves as director of missions.

Other criterion for the award outlined in the award agreement include a demonstration of full support of the work of her husband as director of missions, participation in the work of the association as deemed appropriate in the field of service, demonstration of a full commitment to Baptist missions locally as well as globally, demonstration of an active witness to the unsaved, being an example and encourager to pastors' wives in the churches of the Baptist association where her husband serves, and being a woman of faith in

God, in the Word of God and in the practice of prayer. She must be willing to come to the SBU campus in the fall to accept the award and be able to provide her own travel expenses.

Nominations can be made by any interested person or group related to Southern Baptist work. Nominations should be made by letter addressed in care of The Margaret Elizabeth Ross Moore Award Committee, Southwest Baptist University, 1601 Springfield, Bolivar, MO 65613. Nomination deadline is April 16, 1990.

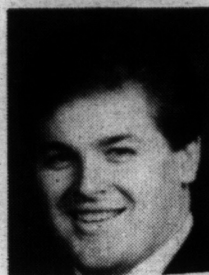
A native of Lowry City, Mo., Mrs. Moore is a 1937 graduate of SBU. A former school teacher, she wrote state mission program material for Illinois and Indiana Baptists. She has been active as a leader in state, associational, and local Women's Missionary Union work. She has devoted her life to missions. She served with her husband as wife of a pastor, state director of missions, and state executive director.

She is also an effective leader in her own right. She always loved and encouraged those who served as a pastor's wife and ones who served as the wife of an associational director of missions.

More information about the Margaret Elizabeth Moore Award may be obtained by contacting Lee Kanakis, assistant director of development, at 417-326-1800 or 326-1803 or at the address listed above.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Mar. 26-27 WMU Annual Meeting; FBC, Starkville; 2 p.m., 26th-4 p.m., 27th (WMU)
- Mar. 30 Young Musicians' Adjudication; Parkway BC, Jackson; 7-9 p.m. (CM)
- Mar. 30- Leadership Training Conference; Gulfshore Assembly; 3 p.m., 30th-11 a.m., 1st (SW)
- Apr. 1 State Young Musicians' Festival; Mississippi College, Clinton; 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (CM)



Whitley

Hebron Church, Grenada, has called Terry Cain as minister of music, effective Feb. 4. His previous place of service was Friendship Church, Grenada. He received his education from Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary.

South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, has called Ryan F. Whitley as pastor. He is a native of Birmingham and formerly minister of youth and activities of Temple Church, Hattiesburg. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Garland Eaves has accepted the call to Fellowship Church in Choctaw Association. He has moved on the field. His new address is Mathiston, MS 39752.



Aultman

Mike Aultman, a native of Sumrall, has been called as pastor of Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg. Aultman goes to Rawls Springs after serving churches in Jones and Simpson Counties.

BJC committee to examine representation formula

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — An ad hoc committee has been appointed to evaluate how member bodies are represented on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

During its March 5 meeting, the BJC executive committee appointed its officers to serve as a bylaws change committee. That committee is to examine the agency's bylaws and recommend whether changes should be made in the formula used to determine representation on the BJC.

The current plan automatically allows each of the BJC's nine member bodies one representative. Additional representatives are gained by contributing to the BJC operating budget.

The formula provides that for each quarter of a percent of the budget contributed, member bodies gain one representative, up to a total of eight beyond the first representative. Then, for each additional 5 percent of the operating budget contributed, another representative is gained, up to a total of nine beyond the first nine.

Under the current plan, the BJC can have up to 54 representatives.

In establishing the ad hoc committee, executive committee members agreed that any change in the current BJC representation formula should take into consideration four principles:

— The jointness of the BJC should be maintained.

— Although some relationship should exist between financial contributions and the number of each body's representatives, contributions alone should not determine representation.

— No member body's number of representatives should dominate the BJC.

— The number of representatives to the BJC should be kept at a practical size.

Members of the BJC executive committee said an evaluation of the agency's representation formula is appropriate in light of a proposed cut in Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget funding, as well as increased contributions from groups such as the Southern Baptist Alliance and state Baptist conventions.

Members of the ad hoc committee are John Binder, executive director of the North American Baptist Conference; Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary; Tai D. Shigaki, an American Baptist layperson from St. Paul, Minn.; and Charles G. Adams, a Progressive National

Baptist Convention pastor from Detroit.

A change in the BJC's bylaws would require that committee members receive a 30-day notice of the proposed change and then approve it by a simple majority.

The next full meeting of the BJC is scheduled for Oct. 1.

Kathy Palen is on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Senior adult corner

The senior adult ministry of First Church, Gulfport, sponsored an area-wide senior adult Bible study week, Feb. 26-March 1. The January Bible Study format was used as a guide. Leadership was provided by Dean Register, pastor, First Church, Gulfport; Frank Gunn, pastor, First Church, Biloxi; Bobby Perry, executive director, Gulf Coast Association; and Joe McIntyre, pastor, Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport. The daily activities began with morning watch by Malcolm Tolbert. Average attendance was 83.

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Just for the Record

Thursday, March 22, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Annuity Board will introduce new insurance

DALLAS — Property and Casualty insurance through the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will be introduced in Mississippi on April 1.

Underwritten by Aetna Life and Casualty Company, and affiliates, the new insurance program features local agent service coupled with the national Southern Baptist agency. "Your local, independent agent of choice can be appointed to write your insurance coverage," said Gene P. Daniel, director of the Property and Casualty Division for the Annuity Board.

"It is not at all uncommon for a member of the church to be the church's agent," said Daniel. "Unless he or she represents a company which contractually forbids a dual representation, we can appoint the agent to write your insurance. This preserves local service and responsibility," he said.

In 1988 the Southern Baptist Convention amended the Program Statement of the Annuity Board to include property and casualty insurance, loss prevention, and related services.

Daniel noted that most churches already have multi-peril insurance on the building, but it often is insufficient for replacement. The Annuity Board program is designed to help a church and its agent to accurately evaluate needs, avoid loss, and provide rapid claims service.

"More than \$19 billion in church property is at risk every day," noted Daniel; "but that is not the only insurance need we can meet."

The Annuity Board program includes liability coverage, commercial auto and bus, workers' compensation,

pastor's professional liability, fine arts, fidelity and crime, and excess liability, referred to as an "umbrella" policy.

Musical instruments — pianos, organs, handbells, strings, and brass — can be fully insured as can sound systems and electronic data processing equipment, Daniel said.

Day care ministries, church camp, short trips, and weekend camping trips can also have the protection they need.

Every church in Mississippi has received a mailing from the Annuity Board that invites response for more information. The Annuity Board toll-free line, 1-800-262-0511, may also be called, he added.

To offer the property and casualty products to local agents, the Annuity Board acquired a for-profit agency and the wholly-owned subsidiary was named Southern Baptist Convention Managing General Agency, Inc.

"The legal vehicle," said Daniel, "keeps the entire property and casualty program separate from the retirement and other insurance programs of the Annuity Board."

The Board's property and casualty program continues and expands what had been known as the Southern Baptist Insurance Trust, which ended its activity in favor of the new agency.

Already available in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, the new Annuity Board insurance will be introduced in all states by the middle of 1991.

Revival dates

Cartersville, Petal (Lebanon): March 25-28; Herschel Hobbs, Oklahoma City, Okla., evangelist; Tim Hubbard, Cartersville Church, Petal, music; Sunday, 8:30, 11 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Leland M. Hogan, pastor.

First, Fulton (Itawamba): March 25-29; 7 p.m.; Frank Gunn, First Church, Biloxi, evangelist; Phil Nanney, First Church, New Albany, music; Martin O. Hayden, pastor.

First Church, Magnolia: March 25-28; services, Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Hickman, Picayune, founder of Resurrection Life Ministries, Inc. and former pastor of Unity Church, Picayune, evangelist; Craig Gilliam, pastor.

Calvary, Greenville: March 25-28; services, 7 p.m.; noon services and lunch; Don Baggett, Belden Church (Lee), evangelist; Keith Steven, First Church, Water Valley, music; Dwight Faulkenberry, pastor.

First Church, Winona: March 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Eddie Hamilton, Oak Forest Church, Jackson, evangelist; George Beck, Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, music; Louis Smith, interim pastor.

Byram Church, Jackson: March 25-28; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Donnie Guy, Evangelistic Ministry, Biloxi, evangelist; Stephen Bath, music and youth director, Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, music; James D. Whittington, pastor.

Southside Church, Greenville: March 25-30; services, 12 noon and 7 p.m.; Al Gaspard, First Church, Houston, evangelist; John Burke, First Church, Greenville, music; Earl Ezell, psalter.



Short Creek Church, Iuka, recently held a recognition service for its Mission Friends, GAs, Acteens, and RAs. The theme was "Climb Every Mountain." Leonard Casabella is pastor.

Pictured, top left, Mission Friends, from left, are Dorothy Lamp holding Joshua Floyd. Also pictured are Samatha Floyd, Anna Bonds, Rebecca Sheppard, Jon Sheppard, Ray Bates, Jamie Casabella, and Debra Sheppard, director, holding Sky White.

Top right, GAs, front row, are Frankie McAnally, Amy Hamm, Jamie Casabella; second row, KayDee Floyd, Jennifer Hall,

Jessie Hamm, and Mattie Floyd, leader.

Bottom left, Acteens, from left, are Christy McAnally, queen; Amanda Hamm, queen; Sandra Bates, leader; and Mattie Floyd, WMU director.

Bottom right, RAs, back row, are Jerrard Robinson, Bryan Casabella, Chris Stevens, Ryan Casabella, and Shan Casabella; Mission Friends promoted to RAs, front row, are Jon Sheppard and Roy Bates; not pictured, Keith Byram and Melody Byram, leaders.



The mission organizations of First Church, Columbia, recently held recognition services.

Pictured, top left, is Gareth Murphree, Mission Friends, perfect attendance; GAs (top right) receiving badges are, back row, Lee Stringer, Karen Howell, Courtney Rhoden, Maybert Bourn, front row, Jennifer Downing, Celia Pittman, and Karen Swann; RAs (bottom right) receiving pins and badges are, back row, Michael Simmons, Andy Moorman, Blake Walker, Evan Williamson, front row, Ethan Murphree, Michael Brumfield, Hunter Rackley, and Russell Young.

Hebron Church, Meridian, will have dedication and open house for its church building on March 25, at 2:30 p.m. Building committee members are Dale Holyfield, Russel Camp, Paul Barkley, Rowena Smith, and Leo McDonald. Ricky J. Shirley Construction was contractor and builder. Tommy Jones is pastor.

Members of First Church, Water Valley, are finalizing plans for the first Lay Renewal Weekend ever held in that church. The weekend begins Friday, March 30, and continues through Sunday, April 1. Sidney Ellis, Greenville, will be the coordinator.

West End Church, Louisville, will have a dedication service for its new building and the renovation of the sanctuary, March 25, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Wayne Hill is pastor.



William Carey College Division of Nursing faculty and students did blood pressure and glucose screenings at Brantley Baptist Center, a shelter for the homeless in New Orleans. This is another in a series of service projects of the division of nursing. Barbara Johnson commented, "This was an opportunity for students to use skills in a community setting which enriches the community nursing course."

Springfield Church, Natchez, will have a singing on March 24 at 7 p.m. Jubilation and Sounds of Joy will be on program. Refreshments will be served. Michael McCarty Townsend II is pastor.

Oral Church, Sumrall, will host an arts and crafts fair beginning at 10 a.m., March 31. An all-you-can-eat fried chicken dinner will be served at 4 p.m. for a \$5 donation. Proceeds will go to the building fund. B. J. Barrett is pastor.

Mississippi College Music Department will host a Madrigal Dinner, March 30, at 6:30 p.m. in Aven Hall, featuring The Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Lewis Oswalt, instructor of music.

Costumed singers or other performers will entertain both during and after the meal, culminating in a concert by the singers. Tickets are \$8 each and may be purchased through the Mississippi College Music Department or from members of the group. Reservations may be made by calling 925-3230.

Revival results

Cary Church (Sharkey-Issaquena): Feb. 26-28; Pat Porter, Winnsboro, La., evangelist; Jimmy Priddy, Cary, music; three professions of faith; six rededications; John L. Searcy, pastor.

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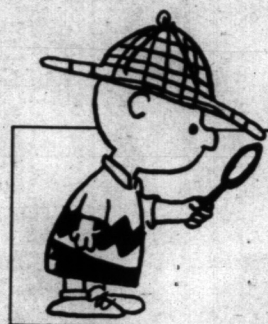
CHILDREN'S PAGE



"Keep it in your heart"

Pictured are the children in the "Keep It In Your Heart Club," at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. These children memorized all the memory verses for the months of October, November, and December, 1989.

They are, row 1, Katie Howell, Anna Smith, Richie Booker, Luke Carpenter, JoAnna Booker; row 2, Jonathan Smith, Brad Roberts, Seth Stephenson, Jeff Davis, Amanda Brown, Emily Morrison, Kimberly Watts; row 3, Ray Wright, Jeffrey Case, Anna Evert, Tina Ignozzitto, Ginger Jackson, Emily Wood, Gretchen Segrest, Kimberly Magee; row 4, Mindy Howell, Andy Morrison, Bethany Hontzas, Danae Haught, Jessica Case, and Mary Elizabeth Pritchett.

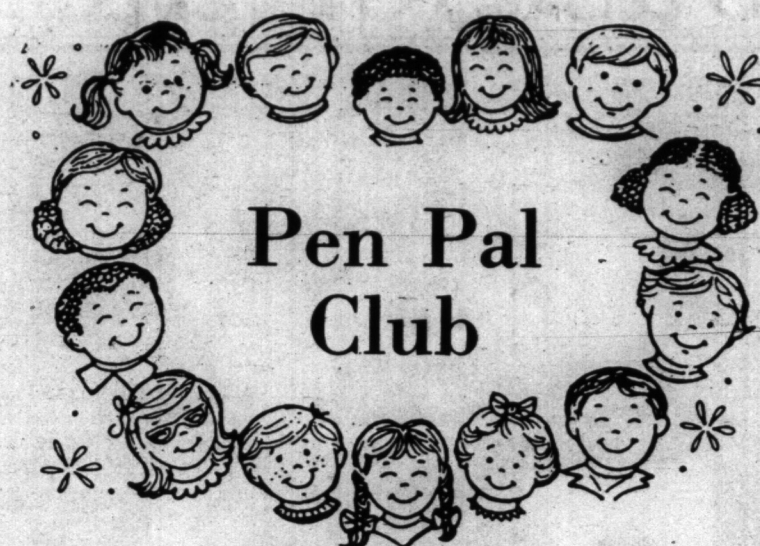


Word Search

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"

(John 3:16)

T A H T B F R Y F S C O I N M P S
F R E Y I O N G H O B C V O U O T
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L G A N B A R E V E O S O H W C Q



Pen Pal Club

Scott Ferguson
Rt. 3, Box 124
Magee, MS 39111
Age: 9
Church: Rocky Hill Church

Dear Baptist Record,
My name is April Crane and I would like to have a pen pal. I am 11 years old. My address is Rt. 1, Box 85, Buckatunna, MS 39322. I go to Chicora Baptist Church.
April Crane

Dear Pen Pal,
My name is Amanda. I go to Clara school and I hope you will write me back. I like to swim and play. I go to Chicora Baptist Church. I am a GA. And I am almost 9.
Love,
Amanda Mills
Rt. 3, Box 855
Waynesboro, MS 39367

Dear Baptist Record,
My name is Melena Iddings, and my age is 9. My church is Chicora Baptist. I would like to have a pen pal. I have some friends in Ohio. And my address is P. O. Box 72, Buckatunna, MS 39322.
Melena Iddings
P.S. Please write me back.

Dear Baptist Record,
I would like a pen pal. My name is Wendy Gordon, I live at 104 Hilda Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39180. I am 12 years old and in the 7th grade. I go to Immanuel Baptist Church. My hobbies are reading, writing letters, and babysitting.
Love,
Wendy

Names in the news



Mrs. Annie Killen was presented a plaque in appreciation for 72 years of service at New Harmony Church, Neshoba County, Jan. 28.

Pictured, front row, are Mrs. Killen, Charles McCollum, pastor; back row, Gary Chamblee, Rodney Goldman, and Eirtis Chamblee, deacons.

Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Bryant will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 7 at First Church, Baker, La. They were married on April 5, 1940 in Vicksburg. Prior to retirement, he pastored churches in Mississippi and Louisiana for 38 years and is currently serving as director of missions for Perry County. Their address is P. O. Box 301, New Augusta, MS 39462-0301.



Mr. and Mrs. Allen Ashley of Louisville, Ga., will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary, April 5. Ashley retired in 1967, after being employed for 11 years by Mississippi Baptists at Camp Kittiwake, Pass Christian. He had also worked at Kittiwake before Baptists bought it, when it was a girls' summer camp.

Following retirement, the Ashleys moved to Crystal Springs, Mississippi, to be with Mrs. Ashley's mother until her death in 1977. Since then they have been living in Louisville, Ga., with their youngest daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Horton. They also have a daughter, Mrs. Walter Ochsenknecht in Marietta, Ga.; a son, Joe A. Ashley in Fairbanks, Alaska; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Ashley, 86, although in failing health for the past five years, is still attending Sunday School and church most of the time and enjoys fishing during the summer months. Before his health started to decline, he was custodian of First Church, Louisville, Ga., where he is also a deacon.

Tom Cox, a native of Mississippi, began his 20th year in evangelism on Jan. 15. He attended Clarke College and was ordained by Corinth Church, Nicholson. Cox has lived near Mountainburg, Ark. for the past 10 years.

Missionary news

Kenneth and Ruth Bailey, missionaries to Bolivia, are on the field and may be addressed at Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He is a native of Vardaman, and she is the former Ruth Holder of Houston.

Ralph and Lynda Bethea, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field and may be addressed at P. O. Box 82925, Mombasa, Kenya. He was born in Chicago, Ill., and considers Memphis, Tenn., his hometown. She is the former Lynda Sharp of Jackson.

Robert and Flora Holifield, missionaries to Italy, are on the field and may be addressed at Via Monte Bianco 91, 00141 Rome, Italy. They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Jones County; she is the former Flora Cole of Lamar County.

Bob and Dianne McNamee, missionaries to Ecuador, are on the field and may be addressed at Apartado 21-162, Sucursal Eloy Alfaro, Quito, Ecuador. They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Jackson, and she, the former Dianne Kea, was born in Kosciusko and considers Raymond her hometown.

Q & A on drugs . . .

How can I, as a manager, recognize an alcoholic employee

As friends we can express concern for our fellow employees, but as managers, we really don't have a right to interfere in employees' personal problems until those problems begin to affect job performance. Employees who think they can keep their alcohol problems from interfering with their jobs are only fooling themselves. While physical signs of alcoholism may take years to show up at work, a steady decline in the following areas will indicate that something is wrong (and it could be alcoholism):

Attendance:
Arrives late, leaves early, long breaks; frequent absences on Mondays, day after paydays, and holidays; vague excuses, dubious ailments, or "I felt rotten"; frequent visits to plant aid station or doctor's office.

Job Performance:
Misses deadlines; incomplete assignments; mistakes in judgment; lack of concentration; erratic work — poor on Mondays, shows improvement as week progresses.

General Behavior/Attitude:
Has difficulty with other employees; blames others; feels "being picked on"; moody and sensitive; lies, sometimes displays grandiose, aggressive, belligerent attitude; memory blackouts; avoids associates.

Other Symptoms To Look For:
Borrows money from co-workers, complaints from co-workers, visible physical deterioration, family problems, loss of ethical/religious values, calls from wife/family to report absence, trouble with law, repeated minor injuries, and/or hospitalization.

It is important to remember that all employees have a bad day now and then and may occasionally experience some of these signs. It is a combination of these occurring over several weeks and months that indicate a problem an employee needs help with. Since personal problems other than alcoholism may share some of these same symptoms, it is important to get input from friends and family members when possible to determine the specific problem.

Some managers prefer to focus on job performance decline and refer employees to prearranged professional counseling service to do an in-depth evaluation and make specific recommendations. In either case, managers do themselves and their employees an injustice by allowing job performance decline to continue after it is obvious they are unable to correct the problems on their own. The result of no action is usually a frustrated work force or terminated employees who have never really been offered the help they needed.

This question was answered by Porter Pryor, Director of the Employee Assistance Program for the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

Please send all your questions about drug and alcohol dependency to Chaplain Don Nerren, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202-2002, or call toll free outside Jackson at 1-800-962-6868 or in Jackson at 968-1102. All questions will be answered in letter form whether or not they appear in this column.

The Mississippi Junior Awards Day sponsored by the Federation of Music Clubs will be held at Mississippi College on March 31. Nine piano students from the Clarke College Preparatory Piano Program will be honored on this day.

Mandy Kelly, Jessica McDonald, Emily Rives, Krystal Croom, and Tish Smiley will receive Gold cup awards at the awards luncheon for having received 15 points in the annual junior festivals.

Kelly Bounds, Jessica Everett, Kimberly Pace, and Lesley Adams will perform a piano solo in the honors recital held in the morning session. They were chosen for this honor by receiving five consecutive superior ratings in junior festivals.

Marion Thornton and Jeff Hardy are piano teachers in the Clarke College Preparatory Piano Program which Mrs. Thornton organized in 1985.

Peter publicly denies he knows Jesus

By Tommy Vinson
John 18:15-27

How would you feel if you read in a newspaper that the best known Christian leader in the world had denied Christ and left the ministry?



Vinson

Disappointed? Disgusted? Depressed? Probably all three, plus other emotions. That's essentially what happened in our text. Peter always seemed to head the list of the apostles. His zeal seemed to be greater than that of the other apostles. His faith seemed the strongest when he stepped out on the water and walked to Jesus. Surely Peter was the epitome of what a believer should be. But here he is in our text nursing a tragic failure in his life. He has openly, publicly denied that he knows Christ. How did this happen? What were the circumstances which led to his sad experience?

Notice that this experience of denial came on

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the heels of a great boast (Lk. 22:31-34). Peter, somewhat condescendingly, said that others might deny and forsake Christ, but not him. Care needs to be taken when we are tempted to be judgmental of others. The writer of Proverbs was right, "A haughty spirit goes before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

Next we observe that this denial came after a great blessing. To be with Jesus through all the wonderful experiences of chapters 13-17 must have been a blessed experience. To have the Lord wash your feet, and then personally teach you about the second coming, the Spirit's coming, and to hear the high priestly prayer must have been wonderful. Just subsequent to this blessing came Peter's denial. It reminds us of Elijah who after the great experience on Mt. Carmel ran in defeat from wicked Queen Jezebel (I Kings 19). Believers need to be especially alert to spiritual temptations just

after a great blessing.

Last, this denial came after a great blow. Peter was brokenhearted as he watched them take Jesus away. Difficulty sometimes brings in its wake the temptation to doubt the love and care of God.

Peter's denial took on the character of both a sin of commission — he lied — and omission — he failed to confess that he was a believer. Satan made it easy for Peter to deny Jesus. The construction of the maid's question implied that she was expecting a negative answer. "You are not also one of this man's disciples are you?" (vs. 17). Someone has convictingly said that "Often silence is not golden, sometimes it is just plain yellow."

As we study this passage, certain character traits of Peter surface which help us to understand why he failed under pressure. He was guilty of prayerlessness (Mark 14:32-42). Had he been better prepared to meet this test. One cannot help but wonder how many of our failures are really prayer failures. Peter was also guilty of carelessness (John 18:18-25). He

hung around the wrong crowd. He was "walking in the council of the wicked; standing in the path of sinners; and sitting in the seat of the scoffers" (Psalm 1:1). Paul was so right when he wrote, "Bad company corrupts good morals" (I Cor. 15:33, 34). Last, Peter was thoughtless. He warmed himself on that crisp spring night while his Lord was being mistreated and abused. He was preoccupied with taking care of himself and his own needs.

Having denied his Lord, Peter was a great loser. This is always true of a Christian who sins. He didn't lose his salvation, but he lost his peace, his power, and his purpose in life. Matthew tells us that after Peter heard the rooster crow, he went out and wept bitterly (Matt. 26:15). Roosters typically announce the dawning of a new day. For Peter, a new day was soon to dawn, of repentance and restoration (John 21:15-17). May the study of this passage also be for you the dawning of a new level of commitment to Christ.

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

"When people become accustomed to darkness"

By N. Allan Moseley
Judges 17:1-21:25

"There cannot be a more decisive proof of the inherent depravity of the race, of the necessity of the spirit's work in every generation."



Moseley

These words of B. H. Carroll were written in reference to the period of the judges, and they indicate the depth of sin and the breadth of the chasm between God and his people during the "dark ages" of Israel's history. The theme of this period is found twice in chapters 17-21: "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes" (17:6; 21:25). There are many sources that chronicle the nefarious deeds of men when left to their own devices, and Judges 17-21 is one of those sources.

Sophocles, a writer of some of the most perceptive ancient Greek tragedies, penned a story mixed with human heroism and human evil. At one point, the chorus sings,

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"Language and thought light and rapid as wind, man has taught himself these, and has learnt the ways of living in town and city, shelter from inhospitable frost, escape from the arrows of rain. Cunning, cunning is man. Wise though his plans are, artful beyond all dreaming, they carry him both to evil and to good." In other words, man has domesticated and educated himself, but that has not made him good — even at his best he is morally ambiguous. The writer of Proverbs put it this way: "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). Without fellowship with and direction from the one, true, holy God, man is destined for depravity, and education only makes him a more clever devil.

One who reads Judges 17-21 (as well as many

other passages in the Bible) should remember that these scriptural words are descriptive, not prescriptive. The stories are told in the straightforward way, just as they happened, but in no way is it suggested that this is the way that the people of God should act.

One lesson that is presented clearly in this passage is the result of a dearth of leadership. "Every man did what was right in his own eyes." Not only was there no king; there was no prominent judge either. During this time when there was a void of human leadership, it is evident that the people were not looking to God for leadership either. These chapters should prove to us the importance of having divine, propositional moral standards that are binding and are regarded as more authoritative than the whims of individuals. These stories also should make us grateful for God-ordained civic leaders who prevent the moral and political anarchy that results from unbridled individualism. Thank God for the standards of law, and the higher standard of the word of God.

Judges 17-21 also vividly displays the depravity of man. There is stealing (17:2; 18; 17-20),

threat of unprovoked violence (18:25), homosexuality (19:22), rape (19:25), and murder (19:26-28). One would have to watch a soap opera (or almost any movie or prime-time TV show!) to see as graphic a display of the outcome of man's separation from God and any other moral leadership. It is indeed a dismal picture.

Another principle illustrated by these stories is the appropriateness of discipline for sin. The only mention of the leadership of God in these chapters regards the punishment of the sin of the tribe of Benjamin (20:18, 23, 28). It is to their credit that the people of Israel sought God's direction in this matter. Surely the sin never would have occurred if the Lord had been consulted all along. Apparently, this sin of rape and murder was of such a drastically heinous nature that the people felt compelled to respond to it with discipline. How sad it is when people become so insensitive to sin that only the most blatant acts are believed to deserve discipline. May we never become so accustomed to the darkness!

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly pastor of Bayou View, Gulfport.)

The supreme act of service — Jesus willingly endured

By Wayne Campbell
Mark 15: 25-26, 29-39

The maternity section of a hospital is generally a more enjoyable place to visit than a nursing home because of the joy associated with the beginning of a new life.



Campbell

Although the manger is more attractive than the cross, it was his death, not his birth, that Jesus asked his followers to commemorate. Why? Because his death demonstrated the supreme reason for his birth. Salvation is found, not in seeking to emulate the example of his life, but in receiving by faith the benefits of his death and resurrection.

Mark 15 records for us the account of Jesus' death. Yet Mark, like the other gospel writers, refrains from giving us the details of the torture death by crucifixion involved. Why? Perhaps, as some have suggested, because first century readers would have known those

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gruesome facts already. But more likely, it is because one need not know the horrible details of the death of Jesus in order to experience its effects. Even to know all the horrors that were part of that means of execution would still not enable one to fully comprehend Jesus' unique agony. For unlike all others who died by crucifixion before or after him, Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us. He experienced not only the condemnation of sin, but the separation of sin. Thus his anguished cry recorded in v. 34.

Christ Jesus, the only one who ever took on sin without taking in sin, endured an agony keener than the physical torments involved.

A sense of separation from God is always painful to a child of his. Witness the testimony of various psalms on this point. For him who was tempted as we and are and yet had never yielded to sin, that pain was especially acute. Sin desensitizes the spirit of man. Since Jesus

had never known the guilt of sin, he had not lost his full sensitivity to the presence of the Father. Jesus therefore felt intensely the separation that is part of the curse of sin.

Sin has always meant separation from God. Thus God seeks to separate man from his sin in order that man might not be eternally separated from his maker. Hell is the eternal climax of a life of separation from God.

One point we dare not overlook in Jesus' ordeal is the voluntary nature of his sacrifice, which demonstrated his love as no involuntary death could ever have done. In no way did his willing submission to the cross mean that he dreaded the pain of humiliation any less than would anyone else. It did, however, give an added dimension of temptation to his experience. Unknown to his tormentors, Jesus possessed the ability to stop the ordeal at any moment. The taunts of the passersby and religious leaders were but vocalizations of Satan's final attempts to short-circuit the redemptive plan of God and negate his sacrifice for our sins. The fortitude to remain silent and unresisting when the charges against him were groundless and the

power available to him was boundless can be explained only in terms of his love for us. Jesus died, not because he had no alternative, but because we had no alternative.

Sometimes death by crucifixion took two or three days. Why was Jesus on the cross only a matter of hours? Apart from the physical considerations, in God's dealings with his people, he never waited two or three days to indicate his acceptance of a sacrifice. When the sacrifice of himself was completed, Jesus yielded his spirit to the Father, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. God thus indicated that the sacrifice was accepted and the way of access now opened. No greater love for man, no greater service for man has ever been demonstrated.

We who are willing to serve only when it is convenient to do so, need to ask ourselves whom are we really serving? The wonder of the cross is not just that Jesus willingly endured it, but that he did so to redeem me. Should I not then give to him all that he paid for?

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

China youths, scholars embrace faith

NANJING, China (BP) — More young people and intellectuals are attending church and becoming Christians, said China Christian Council leader Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting) in a recent interview.

One church in Beijing reports more than 50 percent of its worshipers are young people, Ding said. Other churches

are beginning Sunday schools.

A "new attitude towards religion" is developing among scholars, he added. "In the past you could not see one article written on religion that didn't relate it to the opiate . . . the Marxist definition of religion. But today we have more and more social scientists

who take a much kinder outlook towards religion.

"A growing number of intellectuals take a positive attitude toward Christian faith. I know of some who have not been baptized but who have committed themselves to the Christian faith."

Guilty party: Your Honor, when I pulled into this parking place, I asked the policeman standing nearby if it was all right. He said okay. But when I came back I found a ticket on the car.

Judge: Do you think you would recognize this officer if you saw him again?

Guilty party: I think I would.
Judge: Well, the next time you see him, tell him he owes you ten dollars.

Off the Record



Vicksburg team builds in luka

A mission building team from Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently traveled to luka to Southwood Church, to help construct a sanctuary, classrooms, and restrooms. Pictured with the Southwood pastor, James B. Brown, are the team members. Left to right are Brown; Joe Crow; Joe Parman; Pete Burkes; Dwain Cotton, coordinator of the team; and James Hall. Bill Strohm and Bobby Gardner were also part of the group.

People from all parts of the United States have given finan-

cial help in buying materials and furniture for the new sanctuary. Volunteer labor has been given in most of the construction. A grant from the Oldham Little Church Foundation helped with the heating and cooling system.

"Southwood wants to be ready to minister to the people who will be moving into the luka area with the new NASA plant," said Brown. "We are grateful for every expression of God's love to us."

Reconciliation top challenge Nicaraguan Baptist leaders say

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP) — Aiding national reconciliation is the No. 1 challenge facing Nicaraguan Baptists during the country's transition to a new government, two Baptist leaders said.

Nicaraguan Baptists "have a very great challenge . . . helping people to understand that Jesus Christ is stronger and deeper than political differences," said Tomas Tellez, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua.

"The church has to work in the reconciliation and then in the reconstruction of our country — in spiritual, moral, physical reconstruction," added Gustavo Parajon, a Baptist pastor and member of Nicaragua's National Reconciliation Commission, an outgrowth of the 1987 Central American Peace Plan. That plan, adopted by five Central American presidents, was designed to end conflicts in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Following Nicaragua's Feb. 25 presidential elections, Violeta Chamorro also called for national reconciliation as she claimed victory over Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in a surprise outcome. Chamorro represents the National Opposition Union, or UNO, a 14-party coalition, the members of which embrace a range of political views. Ortega, Nicaragua's president since 1984, leads the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The Sandinistas rose to power in 1979 by overthrowing dictator Anastasio Somoza. Under their government, Nicaraguans have endured economic decline, civil war, and a U.S. economic boycott.

In 1982, U.S.-backed contra rebels began raids into Nicaragua from Honduras, starting an eight-year civil war that reportedly has claimed 30,000 lives. The U.S. Congress suspended military aid to the contras in 1988.

Reactions to the Sandinistas' revolution and rule — and the contra war — have divided the nation as well as the church, a fact acknowledged by Parajon in a post-election interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation. "The revolution has been a central phenomenon that has polarized every group, including the church, in Nicaragua in the last 10 years," he told the BBC.

Baptists haven't escaped the political divisions affecting almost every family, but Baptist leaders repeatedly have called on the United States over the years to end support for the contras.

In the wake of the election, the Sandinistas and the emerging UNO coalition are political forces that "have the tendency to be antagonistic," Tellez noted. "We have to understand that the people have the freedom to have the political options they decide. That doesn't mean that we will have to be enemies. We have to understand that Jesus Christ and his love is a deeper source of unity and strength."

Chamorro, who will take office in April, reportedly is a conservative Roman Catholic. Parajon said he isn't sure what effect her government will have on Baptist or other evangelical ministries in Nicaragua.

"It's difficult to say right now until we know more about the program the UNO government has" and its attitude toward evangelical churches, said Parajon, also president of the Evangelical Committee for Aid and Development in Nicaragua, or CEPAD. "We deduct from their statements we shouldn't have any difficulty in the carrying out of our ministries."

Tellez doesn't expect the election

results to significantly affect Baptist ministries "because we as Baptists get our motivation from Jesus Christ. So we have to continue our work as we have done in the past, placing an emphasis on evangelism, Christian education, and Christian service. We didn't have any problem with the Sandinista government. We don't envision that we're going to have any problem with the new government."

As Nicaragua faces changes, Nicaraguan Baptists "request the prayers and solidarity of our Baptist brothers and sisters in the United States on behalf of Nicaragua during these special times," said Tellez.

The suffering of Nicaraguans has made them open to embracing the gospel, he added: "The people of Nicaragua are hungry to hear a gospel that really responds to their needs. They don't want to hear just words. They want . . . a gospel like the gospel of Jesus Christ, a gospel that preaches, teaches, serves, heals, and counsels the people."

Parajon said he believes Nicaraguans "have turned a corner, that we are convinced that war is not the answer to the problems, to the differences we have among ourselves. We have to work at them by negotiation and by conversations."

The ministry of reconciliation isn't new for Baptists and other evangelicals in Nicaragua. In the past decade, pastors and church members have participated in more than 33 peace commissions throughout Nicaragua, Parajon pointed out. They also have advocated human rights and provided material aid to fellow Nicaraguans.

Baptists also have been at the forefront of an evangelical outreach to contra prisoners, noted Tellez.

More than 600 prisoners have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior inside the national prisons through the ministry, he said. After being pardoned by the government, many have become members of Nicaraguan Baptist churches. Some have become evangelical pastors.

To a young man learning to perform on the flying trapeze a veteran circus performer once said: "Throw your heart over the bars and your body will follow." In every field of endeavor those who put their hearts in their work are the real leaders. Falling in love with one's job is the secret of success.

HMB volunteers up in '89; students needed urgently

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — The number of volunteers working through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board increased nearly 20 percent last year, according to Don Hammonds, director of the board's volunteers division.

However, the HMB has a critical need for more student summer missionaries to serve this year, he added.

In 1989, the HMB counted 48,681 volunteers working through its short-term and long-term programs for individuals and groups, an increase of 6,973 from the previous year's total of 41,708.

The largest increases came in programs for adult volunteers, said Hammonds. He credited the increase to better understanding in churches of the needs for volunteers and to strong state partnership programs.

State conventions with volunteer coordinator-consultants appointed through Mission Service Corps showed the greatest increases, he added.

At the end of 1989, the number of Mission Service volunteers assigned was 1,230, up from 1,170 the previous year. Mission Service Corps is the HMB's program for adult volunteers who are willing to serve two-year terms.

Short-term adult volunteers serving through Christian Service Corps increased to 17,204, up from 13,454 in 1988. That total includes 1,025 groups and 1,431 individual assignments.

The number of high school youth groups participating in missions projects also increased significantly. Last year 884 groups with 25,516 individuals were assigned, up from 762 groups and 22,860 individuals in 1988.

Despite these gains, there are still fewer applicants for college student summer missions than there are requests for help this year, Hammonds said.

By mid-February, the number of applications received for student summer missions was running 25 percent

behind the same time last year, said Bill Berry, who coordinates the HMB's student missions program.

In addition to individuals sent out by state conventions, the HMB has positions for about 600 students to serve across the United States each summer in evangelism, church starting, and ministry activities.

Candidates must have completed the freshman year in college, be active members of a Baptist church, and be committed Christians. Transportation to and from the field is provided by the HMB, along with insurance and a \$60 per week stipend. Housing, meals, and ground transportation are provided by the local hosts.

Interested students should call the HMB's toll-free volunteer hotline, 1-800-HMB-VOLS, or contact their local Baptist Student Union director immediately, Berry said.

Mark Wingfield is on the staff of Home Mission Board.

Evangelize Romania now, pastors say

By Mike Creswell

ORADEA, Romania (BP) — Western Romania's biggest needs are spiritual, not physical, according to Romanian Baptist pastors.

Poverty remains a problem throughout Romania, but evangelism is the biggest need in the western region, the pastors told a visiting Southern Baptist delegation evaluating human needs in Romania.

Many among 22 pastors at the meeting asked for help to launch an major thrust throughout Romania, especially in smaller towns and villages.

Iovan Valeriu, pastor of Talpos Baptist Church near Salonta, suggested evangelists should drive through

villages announcing crusades over loudspeakers. "People would come," he said.

More than 200,000 Baptists worship in Romania, but many pastors are burdened with leading multiple congregations. Government restrictions on Baptists have hindered growth and outreach; and friction has developed in some areas with the Orthodox Church of Romania, pastors reported.

"After the revolution, we find there's hunger and thirst for the Word of God," said another pastor. "We need help with getting more Christian literature and help in how to teach it."

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representatives have been

meeting with Baptist leaders from Eastern European countries to determine how Southern Baptists can best help respond to evangelism and church growth opportunities in the region.

The board also has announced it will spend more than \$1 million in hunger relief funds donated by Southern Baptists. The funds will buy seeds, fertilizer and other help for farm cooperatives plus medical supplies and equipment for a hospital and orphanage in northeastern Romania, where physical needs are urgent.

Mike Creswell is on the staff of the Foreign Mission Board.

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